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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 6, 2017

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GUILLEN PROMOTES BETTER LANGUAGE TRAINING

HB 1451 Awards High School Credit for Elementary Dual Language Program

AUSTIN- Texas State Representative Ryan Guillen (D—Rural South Texas) filed HB 1451 last week to allow pre-high school students to receive credit for dual language immersion programs.

"It is well known that learning new skills only gets harder with age," explained Representative Guillen. "To provide our children with every advantage possible for their future, we need to utilize the recognized ability of younger students and promote early enrollment in dual language immersion programs."

Learning a foreign language is easier the younger you are and the more you are immersed in the language. That is why immersion programs are so effective. Studies have shown that very young children immersed in two languages will be more proficient in both. They also become more fluent than students who just take two years of a foreign language in high school.

High school students are required to earn two credits in foreign language courses in order to graduate. Younger students often develop fluency before they even begin high school and they could then take other classes that can further enhance their education. Rep. Guillen wants to implement HB 1451 to make the high school foreign language credit system more accurately reflect students' actual comprehension levels and expand their choice in courses.

"Our children's education needs to provide them with the tools to succeed in today's diverse society," said Guillen. "By updating the high school credit system, we can increase the efficiency of students' ability to learn."

Representative Ryan Guillen serves ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, including Atascosa, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Starr, and Willacy.

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