



# RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
DECEMBER 14, 2017

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
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## **GUILLEN ANNOUNCES RECORD NUMBER OF NEW DOCTORS**

*Texas Medical Association Says More New Doctors In Texas Than Ever Before*

**AUSTIN** - The Texas Medical Association recently announced a record number of new doctors in Texas. Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) was pleased to hear that more and more doctors are flocking to Texas and he hopes to capitalize on that success by bringing more doctors to underserved areas of the state.

**"Texas is a great place to be a doctor but some areas of our state, especially rural areas, have few or no doctors, and we need to change that," said Guillen.**

Since 2003 the state has licensed over 49,000 physicians; in 2017 alone, Texas has issued almost 5,000 new medical licenses. This is due, in part, to Texas' reputation as a state with a favorable practice climate. The Texas Medical Association's President was quoted in Texas Medicine Monthly saying, "physicians will find opportunity here." These numbers are proof of that.

But more doctors does not mean that everyone in Texas gets the care they need. Many counties, especially rural ones, face a doctor shortage. During his time in the legislature, Guillen has fought to close that gap and improve healthcare in rural Texas. He has boosted mental health funding by \$600 million and women's health initiatives by \$30 million, fought to remove barriers to make telehealth and telemedicine services, which are vital in rural areas, cheaper and more accessible, and he played a critical role in bringing the first medical school to the Valley. UTRGV's medical school is vitally important because it will help recruit and train doctors that already call the Valley home.

**"In 2014, the Valley got its first medical school and I can't wait to see those graduates come back and practice in their communities, which need them so much. Having access to doctors, nurses and health centers is essential; you shouldn't have to drive hours to see a doctor or get health services" said Guillen.**

*Serving ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, Ryan Guillen is known for his hard work, fierce independence, and relentless efforts for South Texas families. Recently, Capitol Inside called him a "House Bill Machine," and a "one-person assembly line for legislation." Since elected, few other legislators have passed more bills than Guillen. Sign up for updates at [ryanguillen.com](http://ryanguillen.com), [facebook.com/representative.guillen](https://facebook.com/representative.guillen), and [twitter.com/ryanguillen](https://twitter.com/ryanguillen)*



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