



RYAN GUILLEN
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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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GUILLEN HELPS DONATE FOOD TO STUDENTS IN NEED

Creating a Bridge Between Excess Food From Schools and Students in Need of a Meal

AUSTIN - Texas State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) is an author of HB 367, a bill to help feed hungry children through a process of donating excess food in public schools to nonprofit organizations. HB 367 has been placed on the General State Calendar to be heard on the Floor.

"It is time to acknowledge the realities and the dangers that hunger poses to those that live in our communities," said Guillen. "We should not allow food to go to waste when we have children going home hungry."

According to Sharon Glosson, the North East ISD school nutrition executive director, hunger affects almost every facet of a person's life. "It affects their education. It affects their ability to concentrate. It affects their ability to socialize," said Glosson. Tons of food is currently being wasted by school meal programs every day, much of which is unopened and relatively untouched. Currently, if a student purchases a milk and doesn't open it or buys an apple and doesn't take a bite, those items are thrown away, regardless of freshness or contamination. Guillen thinks there is an obvious flaw in this process, and wants to make the most out of the tons of fresh food being thrown away in our public schools.

"There is no logic in wasting food when our children could benefit from the excess," said Guillen. "We cannot expect our hungry students to pay attention to algebra when all they want is some food."

HB 367 will allow schools to store extra food on campus and give it out how they see fit, so long as they follow health codes. Current Texas law doesn't address liabilities associated with the donation of a school's excess food, hindering many schools from donating. HB 367 will clarify these laws, and encourage schools to make donations of excess food to their students in need.

"HB 367 is common sense legislation, and is an easy way to feed thousands of Texas students," said Rep. Guillen.

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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