



RYAN GUILLEN
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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 31, 2017

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GUILLEN EXPANDS ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIPS

Measure Allows Students to be Eligible for Unused Scholarship

AUSTIN - Texas State Representative Ryan Guillen's (D-Rural South Texas) HB 66 will allow eligible candidates for the four-year Armed Services Scholarship to replace awardees who lose their eligibility for the scholarship. On **Monday, May 29**, HB 66 was signed by Governor Greg Abbott.

"There's always an individual deserving of these scholarship funds," Guillen stated. "In the unfortunate event where an awardee can no longer meet the requirements of the scholarship, the remaining scholarship funds should be used to give other qualified students a chance to benefit."

Each year the governor and lieutenant governor can each appoint two students to receive the Armed Services Scholarship, while state senators and state representatives can each appoint one student. The award amount can be up to \$5,000 per student per semester for all four years, and is quite a prestigious achievement for anyone who is granted the funding. Currently, if a student for any reason loses their scholarship eligibility, there is no process to allow another student to be appointed in their place. HB 66 directly addresses this issue and allows other eligible students to access this opportunity.

"There is really no reason for these scholarship funds to go to waste," said Guillen. "Texas has an abundance of qualified students eager to benefit from the Armed Services Scholarship, and I see no reason to deny them this opportunity to receive financial assistance."

By requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to determine the scholarship requirements, rather than individual colleges and universities, HB 66 will create a more uniform standard by which the students will be judged, and will make it easier to be more flexible in the implementation of those rules.

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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