



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
ALEX.GAUDIO@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV

GUILLEN GIVES VETERANS BETTER ACCESS TO BENEFITS

SB 544 Improves Veteran County Service Officer Training System

AUSTIN - State Representative Ryan Guillen (D - Rural South Texas) sponsored and helped pass S.B. 544 earlier this year to assist veterans and their families in accessing the veteran benefits they deserve. The measure gives greater flexibility to Veterans County Service Officers (VCSOs) in completing their training, so that they can get to work helping our veterans quicker.

“One of our greatest obligations is to honor those who've shouldered the burden of defending our freedom. Having access to the benefits they have earned shouldn't be a challenge,” said Guillen.

VCSOs are charged with serving as a liaison between veterans, their families, and the government. They provide information about benefits available to veterans and guide them through the process of receiving those benefits. Prior to this bill passing, the Texas Veterans Commission was tasked with training and certifying all VCSOs. S.B. 544 eliminates red-tape and allows an approved third party to provide that training so the Texas Veterans Commission isn't overworked and VCSOs get trained quicker.

“We must ensure that our veterans have a smooth reentry into civilian life and that they receive all the benefits they have earned. This measure helps achieve this goal,” said Guillen.

Guillen was also the author of a House version of the same legislation.

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, facebook.com/representative.guillen, and twitter.com/ryanguillen

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