



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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GUILLEN CONTINUES FIGHT TO REVERSE CUTS TO MEDICAID PROVIDERS

Budget Committee To Take Up Medicaid Acute Care Therapy Provider Rates

AUSTIN - Representative Ryan Guillen (D - Rural South Texas) is dedicated to ensuring that children with disabilities and their families have access to the assistance and vital services they need at a price they can afford.

"I opposed the cut of \$350 million in Medicaid support for speech, occupational and physical therapy when it happened a few years ago, and I continue to oppose that cut now," said Guillen. "Steps must be taken to ensure that the children who depend on these services are not left without the medical assistance they require."

The Texas House Appropriations Subcommittee on Article II met recently to continue to discuss previous cuts to Medicaid therapy and the progress of the Early Childhood Intervention program.

In 2015, Guillen opposed the decision to cut therapy provider rates for Medicaid Acute Care providers such as speech, occupational, and physical therapists. These cuts have forced many providers to reduce the number of Medicaid patients they see, or to stop seeing Medicaid patients altogether.

During the 2017 legislative session, Guillen and other members of the legislature fought to reverse cuts to Medicaid therapy. Guillen was an author of H.B. 25, which aimed to restore funding for Medicaid pediatric acute care therapy. After intense negotiations with the Senate, he was able to restore 25% of Medicaid payments to therapy providers in 2018 and 2019. These efforts also led to an additional \$4 million for the rest of the 2016-2017 budget cycle.

"I am working diligently to secure a larger reversal of funding cuts," says Guillen. "It is a continued priority that will be addressed in the next legislative session."

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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