RYAN GUILLEN
TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

GUILLEN STRIVES TO PROTECT LOTTERY WINNERS
HB 59 Gains Traction in the Licensing and Administrative Committee

AUSTIN - Texas State Representative Ryan Guillen's (D-Rural South Texas) bill, HB 59, will continue efforts to allow lottery winners to claim prizes anonymously, reducing their risk of being targeted by criminals. A public hearing on HB 59 took place on **Monday, April 3**.

"Having contributed more than $19 billion to Texas public education and more than $66 million to Texas veterans, the state lottery is one of the most successful and beneficial programs in the state of Texas," said Guillen. "I wish to build upon that success by ensuring the safety of our lottery winners."

Under current law, the identity of lottery prizewinners, including their name, city, and where they bought the ticket, are released to the public. Lottery winners are subjected to the media frenzy that comes with winning the big prize, and can be targeted by people looking to take advantage of the prizewinners good fortune. A number of lottery prizewinners, especially winners of prizes over $1 million, have fallen victim to burglary, kidnapping, harassment, fraudulent lawsuits, and other criminal activity due to their new-found wealth. Representative Guillen understands the importance of transparency in good governance, but he fully believes no citizen deserves to be harassed for winning the lottery. Guillen is committed to protecting the privacy wishes of those lottery prizewinners.

"It is important for people to know that when they buy a lottery ticket and win, they will be protected from harassment, and able to continue living their lives in peace," said Guillen.

HB 59 is being considered in the Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee and a public hearing took place on **Monday, April 3.**

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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