



RYAN GUILLEN
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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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GUILLEN IMPLORES GOVERNOR TO ADD ASATR GAP TO SPECIAL SESSION TOPICS

AUSTIN - On **June 21**, Texas State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) sent a letter to Governor Abbott, requesting that the special session call include Additional State Aid for Tax Relief for public schools.

In 2006, the state legislature reduced property taxes down by a considerable amount. In order to ensure that the funding provided to school districts on a per-student basis wouldn't be disrupted, the Additional State Aid for Tax Relief (ASATR) was enacted. Funding for public education was once again significantly reduced in 2011, and it was decided that ASATR would expire **September 1, 2017**.

In their letter to the governor, the representative's request that the special session call be expanded to include ASATR funding for public schools, as districts stand to lose millions when it expires. Guillen hopes to see the ASATR revived by the end of the session.

"Rural Texas is home to many small communities that heavily rely on ASATR," Guillen said. "Taking away this much needed funding is the worst thing we could do to these communities.

In 2005, when the [Supreme Court of Texas] ruled that the way we funded public education was unconstitutional, we came up with ASATR as part of our response. Not continuing this equitable funding guarantee for districts that need it is turning back the clock and turning our backs on our kids."

The special session is set to begin **July 18, 2017**.

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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