



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 29, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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GUILLEN HELPS SECURE \$10 MILLION FOR VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH

State Veteran and Family Alliance Program Receives Next Phase Of Funding

AUSTIN - Representative Ryan Guillen (D - Rural South Texas) applauds the announcement of \$10 million in funding from the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance grant program to help veterans and their families receive mental health care. As a legislator who helped pass the bill that created the program, Rep. Guillen is especially proud to see funding directed to organizations serving veterans within District 31.

"I am excited that this support is being provided to our South Texas veterans and their families. Access to mental health services is an important issue for all Texans, and we must do everything we can do make sure that our veterans receive this life-saving care," said Representative Guillen.

The Texas Veterans + Family Alliance program supports families by helping them gain access to mental health care. This includes focusing on counseling in person and tele-counseling in rural areas, helping coordinate transportation, and caring for veterans as they transition into civilian life. The program was established by SB 55, which Guillen helped pass, and over the course of four years will grant \$40 million in state funds and even more in matched private funds. This money will be given to local organizations to directly assist the communities they serve. Veterans programs in Atascosa, Duval, Jim Hogg, and La Salle counties will receive funds through the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio and the Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health from the current round of funding.

"One of our greatest obligations as Americans is to honor and pay tribute to those who have shouldered the burden of defending our freedom, our veterans and military families," added Guillen. "So we must serve those who served us by helping them re-enter civilian life and improve the benefits available to them."

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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