



**RYAN GUILLEN**  
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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
APRIL 11, 2017

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**GUILLEN WORKS TO SAVE TEXAS LIVES**  
*Good Samaritan Law Gains Traction in Legislature*

**AUSTIN** - Texas State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) is again pushing legislation that would provide a safeguard from arrest and prosecution to any Texan who calls 911 to report an overdose. A public hearing for HB 73, a Good Samaritan Bill, was held on **Monday, April 10.**

**"Texans should never have to fear calling 911 for help in an overdose situation," said Guillen. "With opioid overdose rates increasing across the United States, it is important to establish protections which ensure Texans feel safe calling 911 in an overdose situation."**

During the 82nd Legislative Session, HB 3474, a Good Samaritan Law, was enacted to protect minors who call for emergency medical assistance during a possible alcohol overdose. Guillen believes similar protections should be offered to individuals calling for drug overdose assistance.

Today, 14 states, as well as the District of Columbia, have enacted legislation regarding Good Samaritan protections for those who call 911 due to an overdose. Opioid overdose rates have quadrupled since 2000 across the country, and accidental poisoning, most commonly due to overdose, is the third leading cause of injury-related deaths. In order to help save lives, individuals witnessing a drug overdose need to be able to contact 911 without fear of prosecution. HB 73 would open up a line of communication to law enforcement and emergency medical assistance that would offer a defense from prosecution for a good Samaritan calling 911 for help.

**"Saving lives should always take priority during drug related cases," said Guillen. "My Good Samaritan bill will ensure that those who are experiencing an overdose are able to access the life-saving care that they need."**

HB 73 was voted on and passed in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee on **Monday, April 17.**

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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