



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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CONGRESS VOTES TO CONTINUE CHIP FUNDING

Due to pressure from the nation Congress has voted to continue funding CHIP

AUSTIN - Representative Ryan Guillen (D- Rural South Texas) was pleased to announce that Congress has moved to continue funding the CHIP program for 6 more years. After intense pressure from nation, his office included Congress has finally acted in preserving the health care of millions of American children.

"All Texans, especially children, should be able to get the medical care they need at a price they can afford, so it is imperative that Congress re-authorize this life-saving and bipartisan program," said Guillen. "I am happy to hear that our calls to action have been heeded and that help is on the way."

CHIP is a federal block-grant program that was created in 1997 to improve health insurance coverage for children and to reduce the rate of children without insurance. In the years since, it has proven incredibly effective. CHIP has lowered the rate of uninsured children in Texas from 16% to 6%, covering almost 400,000 children and expecting mothers. Additionally, almost 250,000 children benefit indirectly from CHIP's Medicaid incentives. In total, CHIP covers about 45% of all children in Texas.

The federal funding for CHIP expired on September 30th, and Texas was expected to run out of its remaining CHIP money to fund these necessary medical services at the beginning of 2018. If Congress had refused to renew and fund the program, thousands of Texas children that would have been covered by CHIP would lose access to their health coverage. Guillen put pressure on the federal representatives of his district in October urging them to renew and fund CHIP. In December, Congress authorized an emergency allocation of \$135 million to Texas' CHIP program and early last week, it authorized an additional \$248 million which was enough to operate the program through March. The continuation of the CHIP program was a deal made in order to end the Government shutdown.

"These funds are desperately needed and greatly appreciated, so while I thank our federal representatives for their hard work on behalf of Texas kids, I urge them to pass a long-term solution as quickly as possible," Guillen added. "Our kids' lives are too precious to be used as pawns."

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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