



RYAN GUILLEN
★
TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 18, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
COREY.TICKNOR@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV

**REP. GUILLEN PUSHES TO END DISCRIMINATORY
LEAVE POLICIES**

HB 88 to Help Foster Parents Passed out of the House, Awaits Senate Action

AUSTIN – State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) is an author of HB 88, a bill to prevent employers from implementing sick child leave policies discriminating against employees with foster children. HB 88 was successfully engrossed in the Texas House on **Monday, April 17**, and is currently awaiting discussion in the Texas Senate.

"The purpose of this bill is to fight discrimination," said Guillen. "If employees are allowed to take off work to care for their biological children, then the same should be so for foster children."

Currently, an employer may allow their employees to take justified leave to care for a sick biological child, but may prohibit foster parents from doing the same. To resolve this issue, HB 88 would require that any sick child leave policy offered to employees must apply to biological, adoptive or foster children.

HB 88 does not aim to dictate the policies that an employer implements regarding employee sick child leave. Rather, this bill targets discrimination between employees with biological and/or adoptive children and employees with foster children.

"This is a simple bill to guarantee that foster parents have the same ability to care for their sick children as their coworkers," said Guillen. "When it comes to family health, there is no sense in treating employees with foster children any different than those with biological children."

On **Thursday, April 13**, HB 88 was voted favorably in the Texas House. Now that the bill has become engrossed, it awaits discussion in the Texas Senate. Representative Guillen is proud to see the House stand with the working parents of foster children, and he urges the Senate to support this addition to the Texas Labor Code.

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.

###