

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** APRIL 2, 2018

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## **GUILLEN FIGHTS FOR BETTER HEALTHCARE**

Guillen Uses World Health Day To Advocate For Better Healthcare In South Texas

**AUSTIN** - In recognition of World Health Day, Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) emphasizes the need to reduce costs and increase access to healthcare in South Texas.

"Improving the accessibility, quality and affordability of healthcare for South Texans is a priority of mine," said Guillen. "Healthcare is not a privilege but a right."

World Health Day is an opportunity to bring more awareness to health concerns and the idea of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Representative Ryan Guillen is certainly no stranger when it comes to contributions to the health and human services field.

In recent years, Guillen was an author of legislation which brought a top-tier medical school to the Valley in UTRGV, and he has worked diligently to make sure that it receives the funding it needs to grow and serve more students. Medical schools have a proven track record of improving the health of the community they operate in as they attract more medical professionals to the area and train the next generation of doctors and nurses in the communities in which they will serve.

"No Texan should have to wait months and drive hours just to receive the medical care that they need," said Guillen. "We have recently made great progress in increasing access to medical care and reducing its cost, but more remains to be done. I look forward to continuing this fight in the next legislative session."

Guillen also was an author of a bill which boosted funding to for mental health conditions and substance use disorders by \$600 million, and he has helped pass legislation that capped prescription drug copay costs, helped offer employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and made telehealth services cheaper and more accessible.

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