

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** APRIL 27, 2018

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## GUILLEN SUPPORTS PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day On April 28th

**AUSTIN** - April 28th is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. Representative Ryan Guillen (D - Rural South Texas) continues to advocate for the safe disposal of prescription medications, while also promoting the fight against opioid abuse for veterans.

"Unused prescription medicine can be easily accessed and misused or disposed of improperly," said Guillen, "National Prescription Drug Take-back Day is an opportunity for medicine to be disposed of properly so that we can protect everyone else around us."

Representative Guillen is a strong advocate for the fight against the opioid epidemic and maintaining public health. In the 84th legislative session he authored a "good Samaritan" bill that would have provided legal protection for people who call for emergency medical services to save someone's life while they were in possession of illegal substances. Guillen also included a provision to increase the availability of naloxone which can partially or completely reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. The Governor vetoed this legislation, but Guillen has continued the fight to get this life-saving measure passed.

Guillen also supports veterans and their families who suffer from substance abuse and encourages them to participate in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. Guillen has shown his dedication to helping veterans by supporting the establishment of the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance grant program. This program has received \$10 million in funds by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to provide veterans mental health services.

"It is important we recognize those who face unique challenges such as men and women who serve, to get them the help they need," added Guillen.

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