



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 16, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
ALEX.GAUDIO@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV

GUILLEN PROTECTS TEXAS ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

H.B. 66 and S.B. 49 Ensures Qualified Students Receive the Scholarship

AUSTIN - Representative Ryan Guillen (D- Rural South Texas) is proud to announce that two measures he helped pass to improve the Texas Armed Services Scholarship are taking effect. H.B. 66, which Guillen authored, and S.B. 49, which Guillen sponsored, allows state officials to appoint an alternate to receive the scholarship and ensures the alternate receives the money from the scholarship.

"We should support the education of students who seek to serve this country," said Guillen. "These measures aim to provide them with a chance they might not have had otherwise."

The Armed Services Scholarship is a scholarship open to college students who want to serve their country in the military after graduation. To be eligible, a student must meet certain GPA requirements, be on track to graduate on time, and must commit to joining their university's ROTC program and to serving in the military after graduation. State Representatives, State Senators, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Governor can each appoint students to receive the scholarship. In recent years, over 70 of these students have dropped out of the program because they failed to meet one or more eligibility requirements. Until now, there was no mechanism for the state officials to appoint another student to take their place.

Guillen saw this as a wasted opportunity to help some hardworking and patriotic students attend college, so he filed H.B. 66 and sponsored S.B. 49 to help solve the problem. S.B. 49 allows state officials to select an alternate recipient in the event that the original recipient is no longer eligible. H.B. 66 allows the alternate candidate to receive any leftover funding from the original scholarship.

"In the past few years, so many of these scholarship opportunities have been wasted. We want to make sure they are put to good use," said Guillen.

S.B. 49 went into effect September 1st, 2017. H.B. 66 will go into effect September 1st, 2018.

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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