



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **GUILLEN COMMENDS NEW HISPANIC HEALTH INITIATIVE**

### **PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TEXAS A&M AND DRISCOLL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

**AUSTIN** – The Texas A&M University System and Driscoll Children's Hospital announced this week a partnership to create the Global Institute for Hispanic Health, which will aim to improve Hispanic representation in clinical trials, a goal supported by Representative Ryan Guillen ( D - District 31).

**"I am very happy that the partnership between Texas A&M and Driscoll Children's Hospital is developing toward this program," said Guillen. "This institute has the potential to really help increase representation for Hispanics in clinical trials, and I look forward to seeing the progress these programs make in helping improve health here in South Texas."**

The institute will focus at first on improving the population's access to clinical trials. Currently, Hispanics represent 16 percent of the U.S. population, and nearly half of the population of Texas, but only 1 percent of participants in clinical trials.

The program has \$2 million in funding initially and will be established at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi. The program will include all of South Texas through DCH clinics in Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen, and other locations in the region.

Clinical trials are often used to determine whether a medical treatment, strategy, or technology is safe for humans. They are also used to discern which approaches work best for different illnesses or groups of people. Historically, women and minorities are under-represented in clinical trials, but Hispanics are the most under-represented at present.

**"I am very pleased to see this program initiated in South Texas," said Guillen. "I think this program will eventually serve to benefit the lives of many South Texans and will hopefully continue to do so for many years to come."**

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.

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