



**RYAN GUILLEN**  
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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**GUILLEN FIGHTS TO PROTECT LOTTERY WINNERS' IDENTITIES: *HB 59 - Allowing Lottery Winners to Claim Prizes Anonymously***

**AUSTIN** – On Monday, November 14th, State Representative Ryan Guillen (D—Rural South Texas) announced he filed HB 59, continuing his efforts to allow lottery winners to claim prizes anonymously, reducing their risk of being targeted by criminals. Guillen’s bill filing arrives on the coattails of news that the state lottery broke its record for sales with \$5 billion in fiscal year 2016.

**“Having contributed more than \$19 billion to Texas public education and more than \$66 million to Texas veterans, the state lottery is one of the most successful and beneficial programs to our state,”** said Guillen. **“The Lottery Commission has been successful in achieving sustained growth in revenue over the past few years. I wish to build on that success by improving the process and ensuring the safety of our lottery winners.”**

Under current law, the identity of lottery prizewinners, including their name, city, and where they bought the ticket, are released to the public. Lottery winners are subjected to the media frenzy that comes with winning the big prize, and can be targeted by people looking to take advantage of the prizewinner. A number of lottery prizewinners, especially winners of prizes over \$1 million, have fallen victim to burglary, kidnapping, harassment, fraudulent lawsuits, and other criminal activity due to their new-found wealth. Representative Guillen is committed to protecting the privacy wishes of those lottery prizewinners.

**"It is important people know that when they buy a lottery ticket and win, they would be protected from harassment, and able to continue living their lives in peace,"** said Guillen.

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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