



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 14, 2016

GUILLEN STRIVES TO PROTECT STUDENTS

AUSTIN – On Wednesday, November 14, 2016 State Representative Ryan Guillen (D—Rural South Texas) filled HB49, a bill relating to the prosecution of improper relationship between educators and students. This measure will further define improper relations in a school setting in order to ensure perpetrators are effectively prosecuted.

"The infrequent reporting of these improper relationships allow sexual predators to continue teaching our children," Guillen said. "As a father, I understand how important it is to establish a safe educational environment where our children can learn. HB49 will ensure school districts handle improper relationship cases appropriately and effectively."

Texas is unique in its current lack of regulation surrounding improper relationship between educators and students. Teachers resigning due to sexual allegations, are being allowed to resign quietly and receive employment with another district without repercussion—a practice commonly referred to as "passing the trash." Superintendents' offices are intended to notify the Texas Education Agency immediately after a teacher resigns due to such an infraction, however, that doesn't always happen.

Guillen believes passing this legislation will clearly establish what constitutes an improper relationship between educator and student, and make certain that those educators who have committed an offense are prosecuted accordingly.

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.

###