



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

GUILLEN HONORS DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

AUSTIN – In honor of Direct Support Professionals Week, State Representative Ryan Guillen (D—Rural South Texas) expressed his gratitude and support for direct support professionals (DSPs) throughout the state. Having authored the bill that established Direct Support Professionals Week in Texas, Guillen issued the following statement:

"The work that DSPs do enable people with disabilities to live meaningful, productive lives while remaining connected to their families and communities is truly inspiring. By observing Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week, we honor and recognize the indispensable contributions that DSPs constantly provide to countless Texans."

Direct support professionals (DSP) are the primary providers of publicly funded long-term support services for people with physical and mental disabilities. DSPs perform other vital services that can be too challenging for an individual's family to handle. In authoring the legislation, Representative Guillen sought to recognize their contributions by declaring the second full week in September as Direct Support Professionals Week. Representative Guillen was lauded by health providers and advocates for his efforts to honor those who give up so much of their time and make personal sacrifices in order to take care of their fellow Texans.

"Demand for direct support professionals (DSPs) in homes and the community is steadily increasing," said Guillen, "It is our duty and pleasure to honor those who take care of the citizens in their community."

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.

###