

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address March 14, 2014 “GM Recall”

Hello this is your congressman, Michael Burgess. Last month, General Motors announced a recall of certain vehicles to address a fault with the ignition switch. This fault was permitting the key to inadvertently turn to the “off” or “accessory” position. A few weeks later, GM expanded the recall to include even more vehicles that could potentially be at risk. This expansion brought the number of vehicles subject to the recall to over one and a half million. Most of these cars are in the United States.

Sadly, GM identified 31 frontal crashes and 13 associated fatalities that may have been related to this ignition problem. But what’s even more frightening is that questions have been raised about the timeliness of GM’s recall. Documents from GM suggest that the company was aware of these problems as early as 2001. But the recalls weren’t issued until just last month.

In accordance with these reports, the House Energy and Commerce Committee launched an investigation into General Motors and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s response to consumer complains related to the recall issue.

As a member of this committee, I and several other Members sent letters to both GM and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, also known as NHTSA. We requested documents that would help us investigate this issue. We also plan to hold hearings on this topic in order to find out several things.

First of all, what did GM and NHTSA know about these problems? When did they know it? And what did they do about it?

We believe this investigation is really about asking the right questions and finding out exactly what happened in order to determine if there was a problem with the response from GM and NHTSA. We plan to obtain all the documents necessary, interview the relevant officials and make decisions about the appropriate next steps in order to get to the bottom of this.

More than 10 years ago, the TREAD Act was passed into law. This law was a response to the Ford and Firestone malfunctions to help prevent accidents and tragedies. We need to take a close look at the events leading up to this recall to determine if the law is working and being implemented the way the Congress

intended. We as a Committee will do everything we can to ensure accidents like this can be prevented, and this investigation is a first step in making that happen.

As always, I appreciate your calls and comments on this issue. Thank you for taking the time to listen. May God bless you and your family, and as always, may God bless Texas.