

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address February 10, 2012

“Preparing for the Supreme Court’s Ruling on Health Care”

Hello this is your Congressman Michael Burgess. As Chairman of the Congressional Health Caucus I am able to bring in health care experts to help educate members and staff on issues surrounding health care policy.

Currently, the Health Care Caucus is conducting a series of briefings on the future of health care in America – with or without the Affordable Care Act. We are looking at how the Supreme Court’s decision will affect health care, and how we can be better prepared for whatever ruling comes down.

Earlier this month we held our first policy forum that focused on alternatives if the Supreme Court overturns some or all of the law. Policy areas that both panelists discussed work to ensure a better health care system as well as a financially viable system.

Medicare reforms that are both beneficial to the patient and the provider, and insurance reforms for all Americans that guarantee that those who stay in continuous insurance coverage never have to pay more than standard rates for insurance, regardless of their health status.

In addition, just this week we held a forum on the arguments surrounding the case within the Supreme Court. The panelists discussed the four components that will be addressed by the court: the individual mandate, the expansion of Medicaid, severability, and the anti-injunction act.

The panelists agreed that if the individual mandate falls, other insurance reforms must follow suit otherwise it could drive all private insurance out of business. Severability is also critical. Judge Vinson out of Florida is the only one so far to say that the whole law must be deemed unconstitutional due to the lack of a severability clause. Since the law is so complex, other courts have determined the remainder of the law could stand if the individual mandate is struck down.

Complete video of these and other policy forums can be found on the Health Care Caucus’ website, healthcaucus.org. The Health Caucus will continue to highlight the way forward in health care.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. God bless you and your family. And as always, may God bless Texas.