

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address March 21, 2014 “ENFORCE the Law Act”

Hello this is your congressman, Michael Burgess. Last week, the House passed legislation that would require the President to adhere to the laws that Congress passes.

Our system of government has three branches, with each branch having certain defined functions delegated to it by the Constitution. The Congress is in charge of writing the laws, the judiciary with interpreting them, and the president is charged with enforcing the law.

It may sound unnecessary to pass a law that is already spelled out clearly in the Constitution. But this administration has made it necessary. Time and time again, our president has ignored the Constitution’s carefully balanced separation of powers. This White House continues to grant itself authority to amend the laws or even waive or suspend their enforcement.

Obamacare. Welfare. Education. Immigration laws. Drug enforcement. Or marriage laws. President Obama has simply been picking and choosing which laws to enforce. He has even said, “I refuse to take ‘no’ for an answer.”

These words are especially surprising coming from someone who once taught constitutional law.

The simple truth is that President Obama circumvents Congress when things don’t go his way. We cannot continue to allow the president to ignore the limits that the Constitution places on his power. It’s not the way our founding fathers envisioned our government to run. And it carries dangerous implications if left unchecked.

The ENFORCE the Law, H.R. 4138 permits the House or Senate to authorize lawsuits against the Executive Branch for failure to faithfully execute the laws.

As President Obama, who was then a Senator, famously said in 2008, “One of the most important jobs of the Supreme Court is to guard against the encroachment of the Executive Branch on the power of other branches.”

Mr. President, it’s time you value that most important job once again.

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.