

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address July 11, 2014 “The Situation in Iraq”

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Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess. This week, I'd like to talk to you about the situation in Iraq.

Earlier this spring, news that the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, also known as ISIS, gained control of parts of Iraq, including the second-largest city.

Just yesterday, news outlets reported that Sunni militants seized nuclear material from a university in Northern Iraq as they advanced towards Baghdad.

In light of these developments, I attended a classified briefing on the situation in Iraq earlier this week. While I cannot go into detail about what was discussed, I can say that my concern about President Obama acting unilaterally is at an all-time high.

We all remember when the last US troops left Iraq. Everyone involved must have known this was a possibility. It was clear at the briefing that the administration was caught off-guard with the rapid ascension of ISIS. And that they had no contingency plan to cover this development.

This is deeply concerning. When President Obama announced he would be sending about 300 military leaders into the area to monitor what is going on, he did so without Congressional approval.

That is the continuing theme of Obama's presidency. And it is a major problem.

Whether boots are on the ground in Iraq or not is not the issue. The bottom line is that the situation is dangerous. The threat of safety is real. The president should have consulted the Congress before making this decision. After all, we represent the very members of the military who are being sent to Iraq.

For now, I will do all that I can to stay up-to-date on this issue and keep you all informed back home. It is my hope that if the President chooses to expand the scope of our current involvement in Iraq, he will come to Congress to ask for the authority to do so.

As always, I welcome your questions 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.