

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address July 1, 2016 “Strengthening our National Trauma System”

Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess.

Just a few weeks ago, the medical community found itself responding to yet another act of terror carried out against our nation. In the immediate aftermath of the mass shooting in Orlando, the lives of 35 Americans were saved by dedicated doctors and nurses of the Orlando Regional Medical Center – central Florida’s only level 1 trauma center.

This narrative is not a new one. Close proximity to trauma centers have also saved countless lives after shootings in San Bernardino and the Boston Marathon bombing.

Trauma care systems are the backbone of emergency preparedness. One in seven Americans lacks access within the one hour, known as the “golden hour,” to a center to be able to treat severe traumatic injuries.

This means that the chances of surviving a traumatic injury may depend on where an accident, natural disaster or violent crime occurs, which of course is impossible to predict.

As a long term advocate of trauma care access, fellow Texan Congressman Gene Green and I have introduced the Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act and the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act.

This legislation sustains federal trauma programs to address the shortfalls in trauma services and enhance access to trauma care for all Americans.

Both bills have passed the House of Representatives with a strong bipartisan vote.

Americans should not have to compromise access to quality trauma care based on the location where they are injured.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue.

God bless you and your family, may God keep you safe and as the song says, God bless you Texas.