

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address August 26, 2016
“Continued Threat of Zika Virus”

Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess.

For months now Senate Democrats and the Obama Administration have been coming in front of the media to underscore the threat that the Zika virus poses to the United States and the need for action.

However when it came time for action, their response was to block a billion dollar funding bill that had passed by the House back in June.

The combined actions of Senate Democrats and the Obama Administration make it difficult to see that their decisions as anything other than political games rather than emergency action.

I’ve spent the August district work period speaking with leadership from the Centers for Disease Control, from the Food and Drug Administration and the State Department about their response to the spreading Zika virus.

While I understand that each agency is working within its jurisdiction to address the virus, I do not believe they have taken all the necessary precautions—how about elevating the travel warnings to Central America and South America or removing barriers to new technology that could be used to control mosquito populations or diagnose the illness.

This alarming virus has infected over 40 of our United States military service members and over 10,000 Americans in the United States and its territories. And the number of cases is growing.

It’s time for the Senate to act before this public health crisis spirals any further out of control.

If President Obama would rescind his veto threat on the House passed bill, it could encourage the Senate to take up this funding bill and in one afternoon 1.1 billion dollars would begin flowing to the fight against the Zika virus.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue and any other issue. May God bless you and your family, and as the song says, God bless Texas.