

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address February 14, 2014  
“Amnesty by Any Other Name is Still Amnesty”

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Hello this is your congressman, Michael Burgess. Recently, House leadership discussed a series of principles that republicans are supposed to follow regarding immigration reform.

Some were common sense, like securing the border and implementing e-verify on a mandatory basis. These need to be at the core of any platform on immigration reform. However, House leadership also announced that they would support a pathway to citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants who currently reside in our country.

Since then, Speaker Boehner has put on hold bringing his legislation to the floor, since he believes that the Obama administration will veto or sidestep any immigration measures that pass the House. We've seen the president do this before. Two weeks ago, he noted in his State of the Union address that he plans to use his pen to lead by executive order as he sees fit. This is an unprecedented style of leadership, and it's dangerous. It's a threat to the system of checks and balances our founding fathers laid out for our country.

President Obama has proven himself to be untrustworthy at enforcing existing law and I see no reason in creating new laws that this president would simply ignore. Until the border is secure, this conversation can go no further.

I do disagree with House leadership on the issue of amnesty. I oppose amnesty. I oppose any path leading to the legalization for people who have entered into our country illegally. Amnesty by any other name is still amnesty. And here's the simple truth: we've got 11 million of our American neighbors – American citizens – currently out of work. Instead of opening our doors to additional low skilled workers, we need to be working on policies to get legal citizens who are still struggling under the harmful economic policies of the president back into the job market.

Instead of proposing new legislation giving amnesty, we should be enforcing existing law. That would go a long way towards solving our problems. We must remove the limitations on employers from utilizing the effective E-Verify system that prevents illegal immigrants from obtaining employment unlawfully. The United States has a sovereign right to define and defend our borders. We must reform our visa process, without placing special emphasis on people who have come here by breaking the law.

The simple fact is that putting illegal immigrants on a path to citizenship is unfair to those who did follow the law and have been waiting to become U.S. citizens. By rewording those who do not follow the law, it compromises the value of U.S. citizenships for those that do.

I thank you for taking the time to listen. For more information about legislation before the United States Congress, please visit my website, [burgess.house.gov](http://burgess.house.gov). May God bless you and your family, and as always, may God bless Texas.