

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address May 17, 2013

“Solutions to the IRS Scandal”

Hello, this is your congressman, Michael Burgess. You know, there have been so many scandals in Washington this past week that senior democrats in Congress can't even keep them straight. More information about Benghazi has been leaked. The Department of Justice secretly obtained phone records of Associated Press journalists, and the Internal Revenue Service admits to targeting politically conservative groups.

These recent actions by the IRS and the administration are profoundly disturbing. If you go to the IRS website, they proudly proclaim their mission is to “provide America’s taxpayers top quality services and enforce the law with integrity and fairness to all.” Yet, recent actions by high-ranking officials are the opposite of treating all taxpayers with “integrity and fairness”.

Our system of taxation, on which the IRS relies, is based upon the concept of voluntary compliance. How can we possibly expect taxpayers to voluntarily comply with our tax code when employees of the agency appear to be either willfully violating their own rules or simply making them up as they go along?

Of course the Congress, the people’s house, has jurisdiction over the IRS. Republicans in Congress have already scheduled hearings to thoroughly review these allegations, and identify and remove the transgressors and institute policies and procedures to make sure that this kind of selective enforcement never happens again.

In its report, the Inspector General for Tax Administration laid out a number a recommendations and corrective actions that the IRS can take going forward. While streamlining the process for organizing tax exempt groups is clearly necessary, it’s hard to correct a problem if you don’t know where the root cause is. In short, Congress must take every action necessary to restore the public’s confidence in the IRS and in those with whom we entrust enforcement of our system of taxation.

This scandal hits home because, in the end, it is about you. The IRS works for you. You file your taxes; you organize into political groups; and you pay your fair share. If the agency that uses the words “integrity” and “fairness” in its mission statement suddenly becomes partisan and selective, it ceases to work for you and begins to become a part of our political machine that does not have your best interests in mind.

Well, thank you for taking the time to listen. For more information on legislative issues before the United States Congress, please visit my website, burgess.house.gov. May God bless you and your family - and as always, may God bless Texas.