

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address June 12, 2012
“After the Ruling”

Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. I wanted to talk to you about the Supreme Court’s ruling on President Obama’s health care law. We don’t know when the ruling will affect the law – but we will know soon.

There is the possibility that the Supreme Court will leave parts of the law on the books. That doesn’t mean Congress will do a thing to enshrine the remains of a law that has been struck down by the Court, but Congress had better be prepared to move ahead. The American people will expect straight talk with options and demonstrated leadership.

Congress would benefit from a clear-eyed assessment of the revelations found in the negotiating positions taken by the Obama White House with the hospital, insurance and pharmaceutical industries.

Much has now been revealed about the closed-door dealings between the drug industry “PhRMA” and President Obama’s top officials that occurred before the law was passed. Those agreements are not part of the legal case and not necessarily overturned if the Court rules against the Obama Administration. In other words, it may not be necessary to do anything to preserve coverage in the so-called, “doughnut hole.”

After the ruling, coverage for children on their parent’s policies to age 26 may require some re-thinking. In fact, individual insurance companies may decide to continue coverage of adult dependents to attract more policyholders. Again, these are on-going discussions that are happening right now, and in fact, the industry may move with a great deal more agility than the United States Congress.

Finally, there is the issue of individuals who have pre-existing medical conditions. I believe that was an issue which was oversold as part of the crisis to pass the health law. However, if the 62,000 people who are currently covered under the health care law – if they that lose coverage on the very next day after the decision, the states – who have taken the

initiative creating their own programs – could receive financial help from the federal government to include more policies that are available and affordable. Whatever the solution, we need to be prepared.

A great deal of work would need to be done – and it could require Congress to continue in session throughout the rest of the year. In other words, we would remain at the Capitol working, not go home to our Districts for August and October. It is – after all – the job of each Member of the United States Congress, and that’s what you sent us here to do.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. To learn more about health care policy, please visit healthcaucus.org. Also, my website, burgess.house.gov, has information on other subjects of interest. May God bless you and your family, and as always, may God bless Our Texas.