

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address September 28, 2012

“Redistribution Will Not Put People Back to Work”

Hello. This is your congressman, Michael Burgess. Recently, the Wall Street Journal reported that almost half of Americans in the second quarter of 2011 lived in a household where at least one member received some type of government benefit. That’s a great deal higher than the 1980s, and almost 44% higher than the third quarter of 2008.

In the past four years the administration has given the American people a failed stimulus package, a government takeover of health care, a government takeover of banks and automobiles. The result, unemployment has been above 8 percent for 43 months. Earlier this month, the national debt topped \$16 trillion, and more people than ever are receiving some type of government benefit.

Look, no one blames those who have been dramatically affected by the tough economy and needed some type of assistance. The vast majority of these programs are designed to provide a short term safety net. The point is, we should be focusing on what will get people back to work. The government should be focused on giving citizens a helping hand, not a handout.

In 1998, then the State Senator Barack Obama spoke at Loyola University in Chicago. During these remarks, he stated, and I’m quoting here, “I think the trick is figuring out how do we structure government systems that pool resources and hence, facilitate some redistribution because I actually believe in redistribution, at least to a certain level, to make sure everybody got a shot.” – end quote.

Is redistribution a good strategy? I don’t think so, because redistribution as a strategy and government as the implementer of that strategy means that the government plays a larger role and that’s really not the way to go to get our country working again. Any society that embraces redistribution, someone is making the decision on how the redistribution is done. I believe that Americans are actually the best ones to make those decisions, the best stewards of their own money, and should be making the decisions on where their money goes.

And we all know that the president is not referring to some impartial system based on a computer algorithm. He likely envisions a system administrated by politicians and bureaucrats picking winners and losers. That’s a system that’s ripe for exploitation and ripe for corruption, and it would reward political friends, punish political enemies, and in the end, it’s not going to help those he professes to want to aid.

As your congressman, I am committed to working to promote a pro-growth, pro-job creation agenda that will put people back to work, will cut the national debt, and get the economy growing again.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. For more information about this issue and other issues before the United States Congress, please visit my website at burgess.house.gov. May God bless you and your family, and as always, may God bless our Texas.