

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address October 11, 2013

“Washington Update”

Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. The country is now in the second week of a budget impasse. I wanted everyone back home to know the House of Representatives is actively working to resolve the crisis.

Collectively, the House has passed 14 different spending bills to provide immediate funding for our troops, to provide education programs, for federal employees, national parks, medical research, the National Guard and Reserves, veterans’ benefits, FEMA, the Federal Aviation Administration, and most recently, the families of fallen soldiers. These measures were not only supported by House conservatives, but also by House moderates and even some liberals. Why then have all but two of these measures been blocked by Senate Democrats and by the President himself?

These critical groups need to receive immediate funding. The President’s refusal to negotiate with House conservatives on government spending is unprecedented, and the President should lead the Senate to pass our measures. You cannot resolve a stalemate if one side refuses to talk. Yet in the days ahead, the House will keep doing its job by continuing to pass important spending bills.

Still the situation is not without hope. Last night, Thursday night, Republican leaders met with the President and White House staff for the first meaningful talks in weeks. These discussions were characterized as useful and productive. No agreements have been made, but the lines of communication are open and these talks will continue.

To be sure, some of the same pressure points remain: Federal spending continues to be excessive. The President’s health care law remains chaotic for American families, and both of those threaten to make a dangerous deficit problem strikingly worse.

Our country has come through difficult times before, I am confident this situation will be resolved as well. The President talking with Republicans was an important first step. As I have said before, I will do my best to keep you informed on what is happening. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with your questions or concerns.

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 Texas.