

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address October 25, 2013

“Healthcare.gov Issues”

Hello this is your congressman, Michael Burgess. The White House has been in damage control this past week. The President has admitted that healthcare.gov “isn’t working the way it should be”.

The website has been too slow. People cannot complete the full application process. If by some chance people have been able to get through, they are not certain if they have actually signed up. In fact this is unacceptable. The website needs to function before the Administration can force people to enroll for the individual mandate. If people without health insurance are not insured six months from now, the Internal Revenue Service will begin fining them.

Because of this, we need to know who is responsible for the website problems that have stymied open enrollment, and who will fix them. Yesterday, contractors who worked on healthcare.gov testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee. While I was hoping to get outlined and detailed responses from them, they really couldn’t answer definitive questions. These contractors should know firsthand of what’s going on, and how we got so off track.

Next week Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sibelius will testify before the Committee. I have a single message for the Secretary— be prepared to answer our questions. The last time HHS came before the Committee, they assured us no problems with the website. Well, to tell you the truth I’m tired of this Administration coming to testify before us and not providing any answers. They must not be dismissive of genuine concerns people have, especially when so much is at risk.

What we see right now is a national embarrassment, a product that simply does not work. Someone needs to take responsibility for healthcare.gov. I invite every one of you from back home to share your health insurance experiences with me. If you go to my website’s home page, you have the option to let me know how the Affordable Care Act is affecting you, and I want to hear from you whether it’s a good or bad experience.

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.