

Dr. Burgess Special Address August 15, 2017 Reflection on the Violence in Charlottesville

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

This past weekend, I was saddened by the display of hatred and violence in Charlottesville, Virginia. In a statement on Saturday, President Trump “condemned in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence.”

On Monday, President Trump said,

“We are a nation founded on the truth that all of us are created equal. We are equal in the eyes of our creator. We are equal under the law. And we are equal under our Constitution.”

I agree with President Trump. I agree with the president that this display of racism and violence by the KKK, neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and other hate groups is fundamentally and inherently evil and wrong.

I also agree with our Senator Ted Cruz and Attorney General Jeff Sessions that the Department of Justice needs to open an investigation into the acts of violence perpetrated this past Saturday. This investigation is a positive step in the direction of righting this wrong.

All too often we experience political violence and upheaval in our nation. Just a few weeks ago, I spoke with you about the shooting attack that took place at a Congressional Baseball Game practice. And now this week, we are mourning the three innocent lives lost in Charlottesville.

This must stop.

I fear that our country is facing a breakdown of political discourse, a seminal aspect of the American political fabric. Our ability to overcome barriers to discuss solutions for the good of our country is in fact now in jeopardy.

Just recently, I held some town hall meetings in which you, the residents of the 26th District, were invited to come and talk about the issues facing our area and

the nation. Such freedom to express our opinions – even if we disagree – is a key tenet of our American democracy.

Almost 154 years ago, President Lincoln reminded those gathered at Gettysburg that, “Our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

Our nation was founded, and has endured, under this belief. Although we sometimes disagree on policy, we must always respect one another as participants in American democracy and those that are seeking the good of the country.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your concerns on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.