

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address March 15, 2017 Rebuilding Health Care for All Americans

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Right now, we have a historic opportunity to help improve the lives of families across the country. Last week the Energy & Commerce Committee introduced and passed the American Health Care Act. This bill will lower costs and empower patients to make the right health care decisions for themselves and their families.

As part of the Republicans' commitment to transparency, the Committee held a hearing to markup the bill and pass the legislation through regular order.

First and foremost, our plan preserves and protects insurance for all. This includes young people under the age of 26 on their parents' plans and those with pre-existing conditions. It also transfers power out of the hands of Washington bureaucrats and gives it back to the states. By strengthening the Medicaid program, our reforms will empower states to create plans that fit their unique patient populations. It will refocus the resources of Medicaid to do what it was designed to do—and that was to protect the most vulnerable.

As we have said this whole time, the House of Representatives is taking a step-by-step approach to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. We know that in order to build a better, patient-centered system it will take more than one bill.

The next phases of our rescue mission will require Administrative action by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, who also happens to be a doctor and my former colleague, Dr. Tom Price. Additional legislation will also be required to deregulate the marketplace to lower cost and stabilize the market.

What we do know is that Americans need immediate relief. Patients are literally begging for it. Not a week goes by where I don't hear from another Texan being crushed under the one-size-fits-all mandates of the ACA.

I assure you this is just the beginning of our rescue mission. We promised the American people a better, more affordable health care system that works for **them**. And that is exactly what we are going to give them.

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