Dr. Burgess Weekly Address October 20, 2017
Combating the Opioid Crisis

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Millions of families across the country, including right here in North Texas, have been affected by opioid abuse and addiction. The United States is in the midst of a fierce battle against the opioid epidemic. It does not matter where you live – the opioid crisis has touched every corner of American society. The latest figure from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is truly astounding: 91 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose.

Last week, the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health held a bipartisan Member Day to hear from Representatives from across the country on how this epidemic is hurting American communities. More than 50 Members of Congress, representing districts from California to Vermont and everywhere in between, testified on how the opioid crisis is touching their communities at home.

During the hearing, I was struck by the stories the Members recalled about deaths related to opioid overdose in their home districts that lead to parents losing children, children losing parents, communities losing friends and neighbors. No one is immune from this epidemic.

One way we can all help limit the availability of prescription medications is to participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Next Saturday, the 28th of October, the Drug Enforcement Administration is organizing collection sites across the country for a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of prescription drugs. To find the closest collection site or to find more information on prescription drug disposal, please visit DEA.gov.

It's no doubt that the opioid crisis presents a difficult challenge, and Congress is working on bipartisan, commonsense solutions to help end this epidemic. Now more than ever, we must come together and strengthen our commitment to fight this heartbreaking reality.

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.