

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Address February 15, 2018 Situation in Parkland, Florida

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Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Yesterday afternoon, along with the rest of the country, I was very saddened to hear news of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida. I am deeply grateful to the first responders who arrived at the scene, as well as the doctors, nurses, and emergency medical teams that have provided care to victims.

At this time, many questions about this attack remain. Moving forward, I expect we will hear more about what happened yesterday – including stories of heroism and bravery. I also expect that law enforcement will learn more about what motivated this evil attack.

Initial reporting indicates that the suspect telegraphed his intent by posting messages on the Internet. Indeed, some of these postings may have violated the law and certainly should have required greater scrutiny.

This incident serves as a reminder that any potential warning sign should be taken seriously. Too often the path to violence is identified only in hindsight. “See something, say something” applies to all of us – including on social media.

Some lawmakers have said that this attack was the result of a “perfect storm” of circumstances. It has raised important questions – including concerns about how technology like virtual reality and violent video games are desensitizing young adults. We also must address concerns relating to mental health. Congress has prioritized making resources available to those with mental illness, and will continue to do so.

We also should consider school security measures that are implemented to protect students and teachers. I know in North Texas we have committed men and women who serve as school resource officers. In North Texas and across the country, we must work to ensure that schools are safe for students, teachers, and other personnel.

This week our nation has come together to mourn the seventeen lives lost in Florida. I know I join many of you in expressing our deepest condolences to the people of Florida at this difficult time.

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.