

Dr. Burgess Special Address December 20, 2017 Achieving Tax Reform for American Families

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Today, Congress delivered on its promise to the American people by passing comprehensive tax reform for the first time since 1986. In the last 31 years, a lot has changed in this country – except for the tax code. The tax reform bill passed today will offer sweeping improvements and it will help hardworking families in North Texas and around the country.

This tax reform bill simplifies the tax code and empowers taxpayers to keep more of their hard-earned money to be used or saved as they see fit. It also reduces the rates of the individual tax brackets. It nearly doubles the standard deduction – and keeps in place the most important provisions to North Texans, such as ensuring that education tuition waivers remain tax-exempt.

As part of the tax reform package, Congress voted to eliminate Obamacare's intrusive individual mandate penalty. Since its inception, I have believed that this penalty is an attack on Americans' personal liberty. The individual mandate fundamentally changes the relationship between the government and those it purports to govern. Our mission should be to provide every American with access to affordable coverage, not forcing Americans to purchase health plans that they do not want, do not need, and cannot afford to use. With our vote today, Congress has begun to restore liberty to the American people.

Over the past few months, I have heard your counsel and input on the proposed changes to our tax code. While acknowledging it is not perfect, but I believe that this tax reform bill is a step in the right direction, and will help families in North Texas prosper. To see how these changes compare to current law, visit my website at burgess.house.gov.

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.