



CONGRESSMAN  
MICHAEL BURGESS, M.D.

**2017 Annual  
Year End Report**

26TH CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

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## Snapshot of 2017

- Assumed role as chairman of the Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health
- Participated in **28** hearings and markups in the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Participated in more than **70** hearings in the Rules Committee
- Cast **682** votes, a **98%** vote attendance record
- Authored and introduced **34** pieces of legislation
- Cosponsored **109** pieces of legislation
- Stewarded **4** Health Subcommittee bills into law
- Resolved **458** cases with federal agencies on behalf of constituents
- Received and responded to more than **80,000** pieces of correspondence
- Held **4** town hall meetings, **3** teletown hall meetings, and **2** summits
- Assisted in having **165** American flags flown over the U.S. Capitol
- Honored **20** outstanding student constituents entering the U.S. Service Academies
- Mentioned in more than **660** newspaper articles and blog posts
- Participated in **40** radio interviews and **56** television interviews
- Issued more than **70** press releases and **40** weekly video addresses
- Led over **20** letters on issues ranging from health care to national security

*It is an honor to serve you in the United States House of Representatives. For the past year, I've done my best to represent you and advocate on behalf of your interests in Washington. While we have made a lot of progress in the last year to get our economy back on track and rein in the spending and overreach of the government, there is still a lot of work left to be done. In the coming year, I will continue my commitment to advancing a pro-growth, pro-jobs agenda. We need to make government more efficient and reduce the bureaucratic burdens and over regulation that are stifling our economy. With dedication and commitment, we can build this great country back, and we can create a better future for our children and grandchildren.*

## About Me



After spending nearly three decades practicing medicine in North Texas as an OB-GYN, I have served the constituents of the 26th District in the United States House of Representatives since 2003.

I currently serve on the prestigious House Energy and Commerce Committee. In the 115th Congress, I assumed the role of chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and continued to serve on the Subcommittees of Oversight and Investigation and Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection. In addition, I am a member of the Rules Committee and the Helsinki Commission. In 2009, I founded the Congressional Health Caucus, on which I continue to serve .

Because of my medical background, I have been a strong advocate for health care legislation aimed at reducing health care costs, improving choices, reforming liability laws to put the needs of patients first, and ensuring there are enough doctors in the public and private sector to care for America's patients and veterans. In 2017, I played a key role in crafting the American Health Care Act, and have worked to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act . I also have played an important role in

bipartisan efforts to ensure the safety of food, drugs, and consumer products, and have introduced legislation to strengthen our ability to stop dangerous goods and products from coming into this country.

As a member of Congress representing one of the fastest-growing areas of the country, transportation is also a top priority. In 2005, I successfully amended the Highway Bill to include development credits, design-build, and environmental streamlining. During my time on Capitol Hill, I have worked to build, maintain, and improve the safety of our roads, bridges, air service, and transit in the North Texas region.

As a fiscal conservative, I believe Americans deserve a federal government that is more efficient, more effective, less costly, and always transparent. I am a proponent of a flat tax and have introduced a flat tax bill, HR 1040, every term I have served in Congress. I follow a strict adherence to the Constitution and oppose unnecessary expansion of the federal government's control over the personal freedoms of Americans. Instead, I believe in giving people more control over their lives and their money. I am committed to reducing illegal immigration into our country and have taken action to ensure our borders are secure and our immigration laws are enforced. I strongly oppose any proposal to grant amnesty to illegal immigrants.

During my time on Capitol Hill, I have earned a reputation as a problem-solver who seeks sensible solutions to the challenges Americans face and have received several awards including: the Guardian of Small Business award from the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); the Spirit of Enterprise award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and the Taxpayer Hero award from the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste; among others.

Today, I represent the majority of Denton County and parts of Tarrant County. I was raised in Denton, and attended The Selwyn School, graduating in 1968 as valedictorian. In addition, I graduated with both an undergraduate and a master's degree from North Texas State University, now the University of North Texas.

I earned my M.D. from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, and completed my residency programs at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. I also earned a master's degree in Medical Management from the University of Texas at Dallas, and in May 2009, was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Public Service from the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center.

My wife, Laura, and I have been married for more than 40 years. We have three children and two grandsons.

## Connect With Me

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# Committee Assignments

## Energy and Commerce Committee

I am a member of the [House Energy and Commerce Committee](#), the oldest standing legislative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, and considered to be one of the most powerful committees. This committee has wide-ranging jurisdiction, presiding over all matters relating to telecommunications, consumer protection, food and drug safety, public health, air quality and environmental health, the supply and delivery of energy, and interstate and foreign commerce in general.

This jurisdiction extends over five cabinet-level departments (U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency) and many independent agencies (Federal Trade Commission, Food and Drug Administration, Federal Communications Commission, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). During the 115th Congress, I am serving in the following positions:

- **Chairman, Subcommittee on Health.** Jurisdiction includes: Public health and quarantine; hospital construction; mental health; biomedical research and development; health information technology, privacy, and cybersecurity; public health insurance (Medicare, Medicaid) and private health insurance; medical malpractice and medical malpractice insurance; food, drugs, and cosmetics; drug abuse; the Department of Health and Human Services; the National Institutes of Health; the Centers for Disease Control; Indian Health Service; and all aspects of the above-referenced jurisdiction related to the Department of Homeland Security.
- **Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.** Jurisdiction includes: oversight of agencies, departments, and programs within the jurisdiction of the full committee, and investigations within such jurisdiction.
- **Member, Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection .** Jurisdiction includes: Interstate and foreign commerce, including all trade matters within the jurisdiction of the full committee; regulation of commercial practices (the Federal Trade Commission), including sports-related matters; consumer affairs and consumer protection, including privacy matters generally; data security; consumer product safety (the Consumer Product Safety Commission); product liability; motor vehicle safety; and regulation of travel, tourism, and time.

## Rules Committee

The 115th Congress marked the beginning of my third term being appointed by Speaker Paul Ryan to serve on the powerful [House Rules Committee](#). Led by Chairman Pete Sessions, from Dallas, Texas, the Rules Committee establishes the parameters of debate for every bill considered by the House of Representatives on the House floor. The committee consists of nine Republicans and four Democrats and meets weekly to discuss the floor schedule and consider which bills will be advanced for debate. As a member of this committee, I am in a unique position to influence policy on every aspect of the House agenda, including issues pertaining to health care, energy, federal spending, national security, and intelligence.

- During the first session of the 115th Congress, the Rules Committee has met more than **70** times to move critical pieces of legislation to the House Floor for consideration.
- I supported numerous key amendments to major pieces of legislation so that they could be considered by the full House, including an amendment made in order to the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act that would require the Department of Defense to report to Congress how far along it is on being able to pass an audit. Despite a law in 1990 requiring the action, the DOD has yet to achieve an audit and be accountable for its spending. This legislation would correct that lapse.
- I managed **7** Rules on the House floor, providing for the consideration of key pieces of legislation pertaining to health care and energy policy.

# Caucus Membership

A Congressional caucus, also known as a Congressional Member Organization, is a group of members of the United States Congress that meets to pursue common legislative objectives. A caucus can be bi-partisan and contain members of both houses. Because a caucus is comprised of members with similar ideas and goals, it can be quite important and powerful.

## Caucus Chairman/Co-Chair

- Congressional Motorcycle Caucus
- Congressional Flat Tax Caucus

## Caucus Membership:

- Congressional Afghan Caucus
- Congressional Airforce Caucus
- Congressional Army Caucus
- Congressional Automotive Performance & Motorsport Caucus
- Congressional Bike Caucus
- Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans
- Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease
- Congressional Cystic Fibrosis Caucus
- Congressional Diabetes Caucus
- Congressional Dyslexia Caucus
- Congressional Horse Caucus
- Congressional Multiple Sclerosis Caucus
- Congressional Navy and Marine Corps Caucus
- Congressional Privacy Caucus
- Congressional Research and Development Caucus
- Congressional Taiwan Caucus
- Congressional Veterans Caucus
- Congressional Western Caucus
- House General Aviation Caucus



## Statement of Principles for Ethical Conduct

As a Member of Congress, I have an open door policy for any constituent of the 26th District of Texas to meet with me or my staff in my [Texas office](#) or my [Washington, D.C. office](#). Other persons or groups representing communities, large or small businesses, or themselves with concerns impacting the 26th District are welcome to [request a meeting with me](#) and my staff as well. I do my very best to try and schedule as many meetings and events as possible in a timely fashion.

Such meetings or event requests are based upon need and availability and no other outside influences are taken into consideration. I take my job as a representative of the people of the 26th District very seriously, and I believe that when I am called upon to make a decision, the only voices that I look to for input are those residing within the borders of the district I represent.

The people of the 26th District have entrusted me with the responsibility of this office and I am honored to have that trust. An important part of this role is transparency. As the steward of this congressional office, it is my fiduciary duty to ensure that I conduct my personal dealings and the business of this office both ethically and with dignity. Each year I provide my [Financial Disclosure](#) to the U.S. House of Representatives as required. Additionally, each quarter the U.S. House of Representatives produces a [Statement of Disbursements](#), which provides specific information concerning the expenses and disbursements for each office. I believe it is important to be accountable and provide transparency in the dealings of our elected officials and government offices.

## Focus on Constituent Services

One of the most important things I do as your U.S. Representative is help you gain access to and information about the federal government. Although I cannot override the decisions made by a federal agency, I can often intervene on a constituent's behalf to answer questions, find solutions, or just cut through the red tape.

- **How May I Help?** – When a federal agency has failed to respond in a timely manner to a request for assistance or has otherwise been unwilling to provide a level of relief that agency regulations appear to support, a [Congressional Inquiry](#) may be utilized to seek a response. While a favorable reply cannot always be promised, every review and consideration will be afforded based on the merits of the agency concern to seek either a resolution or an explanation of the limiting legal guidelines the agency must follow in relation to your concern.
- **Review** – Together we will clarify the issue, identify your progress within the inquiry process and develop a strategy to assist you in the most efficient pursuit of your goal. My office will serve as a mediator to ensure that your request is provided for full review and consideration by the appropriate officials.
- **Closure** – We will pursue an answer to either provide a satisfactory resolution to your concern or a clear explanation of the limiting legal guidelines that prevent the agency from providing the desired answer.
- **Empower** – We will seek to identify resources that may be helpful in further supporting and documenting your claim so you can maximize your appeal rights and other avenues that may be available for further assistance. Through this process I will seek to provide excellence in service of the constituent needs related to the agencies of the government.

## Statement of Principles that Guide Legislative Decisions

I have a strong moral philosophy that guides my life and informs the manner in which I represent the State of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives. Every vote I cast in Congress starts with you, the people of the 26th District of Texas. I was sent by the people of our district to Washington not to promote any personal agenda, but to bring your voice to our nation's capital. Before each vote I ask myself, 'is the measure before us necessary, good for our district and our state, is this something my neighbors want, and is it allowed under the Constitution?' I always review your phone calls, emails, and letters before a vote to ensure that I continue to be in touch with your thoughts on the issues before Congress.

Our federal government was meant to protect the inalienable rights articulated in the Declaration of Independence. Thus, I will only support legislation that protects your constitutional rights and liberties and is allowed under the powers given to Congress under the Constitution. I also oppose legislation that is redundant, unnecessarily expands government control over our freedom, or increases the role of the federal government in your life.

In addition, I am committed to protecting your pocketbook. I will not support legislation that hurts the economy, slows job growth, raises taxes, or burdens the taxpayers of today or tomorrow with greater debt. Taxpayers deserve a federal government that is more efficient, less costly, and always transparent.

I am fiscally and socially conservative, and I believe that the federal government must be responsible to the people – not the other way around. Whether through my support for a balanced budget that pays down our national debt, ensuring a strong national defense, or giving people more control over their lives and their money, I am committed to shrinking the size of government to only what is necessary to assure your freedom and protect your rights.

## About the 26th District of Texas

The 26th United States Congressional District of Texas is located in the heart of North Texas. The 26th District includes most of Denton County, as well as large portions of Tarrant County, and a sliver of Dallas County. Cities within the 26th Congressional District include:

- In Denton County, I represent the cities of Argyle, Aubrey, Bartonville, Copper Canyon, Corinth, Cross Roads, Denton, DISH, Double Oak, Draper, Flower Mound, Frisco, Hackberry, Haslet, Hickory Creek, Highland Village, Justin, Krugerville, Krum, Lake Dallas, Lakewood Village, Lewisville, Lincoln Park, Little Elm, Northlake, Oak Point, Pilot Point, Ponder, Providence Village, Roanoke, Sanger, Shady Shores, The Colony and Trophy Club.
- In Tarrant County, I represent the cities of Haltom City, Haslet, Keller, North Richland Hills, Watauga, Westlake, and Fort Worth.

The 26th United States Congressional District of Texas continues to flourish. Census Bureau data report a 20 percent Denton County population growth since April 2010. Rapid growth and business expansions from Dallas and the Tarrant County area make the District a thriving economic center. The University of North Texas, Texas Woman's University, and North Central Texas College anchor a large student base within the District.

Energy, agriculture and farming remain essential to the 26th District. Home to Barnett Shale, the largest field of natural gas reserves in the country, clean energy production occurs across the district.

Agriculture also plays an important role in the 26th District, as ranchers raise horses, beef cattle, sheep and goats, while farmers grow corn, wheat, hay, and other crops.

The 26th District also is home to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region VI Headquarters in Denton, Texas, which provides assistance to a five-state region: Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico. Its mission is to reduce the loss of life and property, and to protect institutions through an emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. It is also home to the Denton Mobile Emergency Response Support Detachment.

The Federal Aviation Administration's Southwest Regional Office manages the leadership, safety and capacity and operational integrity for the 26th District's Lakeview Airport, Denton Municipal Airport, Northwest Regional Airport, and Alliance Airport as part of the FAA's broader five-state regional responsibilities. Housing large segments of the East and West I-35 corridors, the 26th District remains a vital artery for Texas and international transportation. The 26th District also sports the Texas Motor Speedway, which hosts two Nextel-NASCAR events in the spring and fall.



## 2017 Constituent Services By The Numbers

### Number of cases opened with various federal agencies: 457

- Veterans Affairs—62
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—111
- Social Security and Medicare—116
- Internal Revenue Service—27
- United States Postal Service—30
- Department of Defense—40
- Department of State—12
- Department of Education—3
- Office of Personnel Management—13
- Various other agencies—43

### Constituent Correspondence:

- Received and responded to more than 80,000 pieces of correspondence

### Events and Meetings:

- Traveled more than 60,000 miles in North Texas
- Hosted or attended more than 400 meetings and events
- Held 4 town hall meetings and 2 Summits

### Other Services Provided:

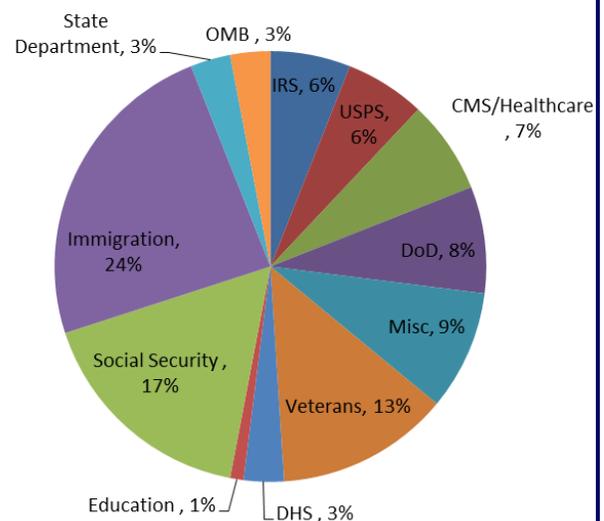
- Provided U.S. Capitol tours to more than 2,000 North Texans
- Hosted 25 interns in my Washington, D.C. and Texas offices
- Assisted in having 165 flags flown over the U.S. Capitol

## Constituent Services

One of the most important things I do as your U.S. Representative is help you gain access to and information about the federal government. Although I cannot override the decisions made by a federal agency, I can often intervene on a person's behalf to answer questions, find solutions, or just cut through the red tape.

Throughout 2017, **457** constituents from the district received assistance in the form of a congressional inquiry to address an issue or concern with a federal agency and I was able to resolve **458** before the end of the year. Some of the more frequent topics I assisted with included benefits from the Social Security Administration, the Affordable Care Act, Department of Veterans Affairs, Internal Revenue Service and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. In addition, my office referred **697** constituents with various state and local issues to the appropriate entities. I sent **2,409** correspondences via mail providing casework updates and informational referrals. More than 50 percent of the constituents who contacted my office with concerns relating to a federal agency resided in Lewisville, Denton, Frisco, Flower Mound and NE Tarrant County.

### Snapshot of Constituent Services



## Tours, Internships, and Assistance

During 2017, more than **2,000** people received a tour of the U.S. Capitol from a request that was made through my office. My Washington, D.C. office assisted over **350** families and groups in requesting tickets for a tour of the White House this year as well. In addition, my office assisted in having **165** flags flown over the U.S. Capitol.

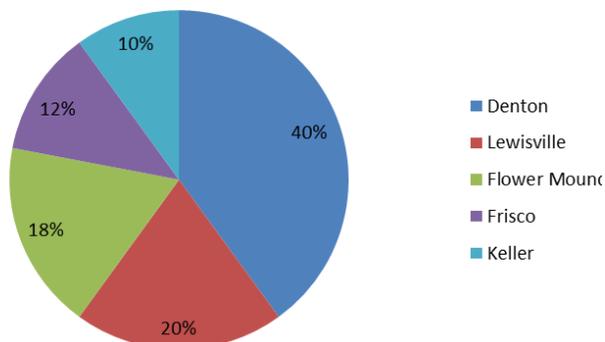
My Washington, D.C. and Texas offices hosted **25** college and high school interns from such schools as the Abilene Christian University, University of North Texas, Sam Houston State University, University of Alabama, Baylor University, John Hopkins University, Oklahoma State University, Cornell University, University of Dallas, University of Oklahoma School of Law, Liberty Christian School, Plano Senior High School, Coram Deo Academy, Marcus High School, and Flower Mound High School.



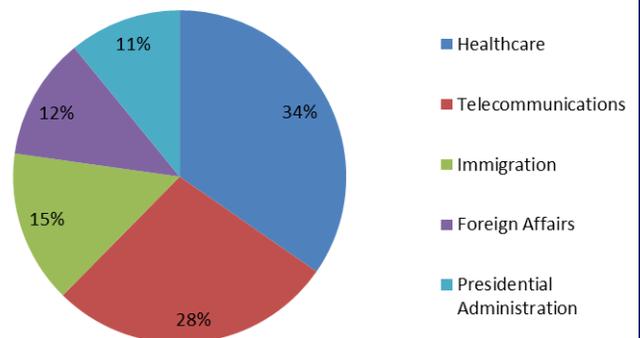
## Correspondence with North Texans

Since the beginning of 2017, more than **80,000** North Texans have contacted me through email, letters, phone calls, and faxes, to express their concerns and communicate their opinions to me on various topics. **Health care policy** was by far the most common topic of communication with more than **9,000** pieces of correspondence received. That issue was followed by concerns over **Net Neutrality**, with more than **7,000** pieces of correspondence, and **Immigration**, with more than **3,900** pieces of correspondence.

Correspondence by Town



Correspondence Issue Areas



## Events and Meetings

In 2017, I traveled more than **60,000** miles in North Texas. I held or attended more than 400 meetings, including seven Chamber of Commerce meetings, 270 health care related meetings and events, and more than 50 speaking engagements.

Over the course of the year, I held four general town hall meetings in March at Marcus High School in Flower Mound in April at Harvest Church in Fort Worth, and in August at both Braswell High School in Aubrey and at The Colony High School. I also conducted two summits that brought leaders from the local, state and federal levels together to address key issues facing North Texans. In addition, in the spring I hosted the annual “Artistic Discovery” High School Art Competition and co-hosted the North Texas Service Academies Forum.

**Emergency Preparedness Summit:** The 9th Annual Emergency Preparedness Summit was held on April 8 at Lewisville High School. The weather keynote speakers Rick Mitchell, Meteorologist for NBC5, and Mark Fox, Warning & Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service - Weather Forecast Office DFW, discussed “Making Sense of North Texas Weather.” The event included a panel of Lewisville ISD Principals that addressed emergency preparedness, in schools, as well as conversations with other local and regional emergency preparedness managers . The event also included a large fair with indoor booths and outdoor exhibits showcasing weather and disaster specific organizations that distributed helpful consumer information, as well as a visit from Task Force 2 Search & Rescue team members and canines.



**Energy Efficiency Summit:** The 11th Annual Energy Efficiency Summit was held July 15 at the University of North Texas’ Discovery Park in Denton. The Keynote presentation was provided by Toyota Motor North America’s Kevin Butt, General Manager – Regional Environmental Sustainability Director, who discussed technological investments and continuous corporate effort in the US to improve their efficiencies and reduce their environmental manufacturing and operations impact as a component in their corporate competitive strategy. Nathan Kokes, Advanced Technology Vehicle Marketing Manager for Toyota, explained the company’s commitment to Hydrogen as a fuel source. Eric Johnson, Executive Vice President, TexEnergy Solutions/US EcoLogic, discussed current residential and small business efficiency strategies. Additional speakers as well as a “Ride and Drive” with a Hydrogen-powered car and resource fair rounded provided additional opportunities for constituents to engage with energy efficiency.

**Responding to Hurricanes:** The 2017 hurricane season was the fifth most active on record. Shortly after Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Houston, TX, I traveled to affected areas to assess the damage and resources needed for recovery. As the Chairman of the Health Subcommittee, I felt it was important to engage with local healthcare providers on their needs following such a devastating disaster. Hurricane Harvey inflicted nearly \$200 billion in damage, the most expensive disaster on record. Shortly thereafter, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico and part of the U.S. Virgin Islands. I visited Puerto Rico soon after Hurricane Maria made landfall and again in December. During my visits, I toured local hospitals and was briefed on Puerto Rico’s energy infrastructure needs. This fall Congress worked quickly to provide emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster relief in September and again in October. In December , Congress passed a third supplemental bill to provide \$81 billion for recovery in the hardest hit areas. While progress has been made, we have a long way to go before lives can be restored to pre-hurricane levels. I will continue to work toward ensuring adequate funding is provided for recovery efforts.



# Special Recognition Programs

## 2017 Congressional Veteran Commendation

The Congressional Veteran Commendation (CVC) was created in 2005 to honor the distinguished living veterans of Texas' 26th District. This year's commendations were presented on November 10 at the annual "Salute Our Veterans" luncheon sponsored by the Highland Village Business Association and the City of Highland Village. I was pleased to present a commendation and flag flown over the U.S. Capitol to these five worthy veterans. Nominations were solicited from the public and those chosen to receive this year's Congressional Veteran Commendation were:

**Paul Farrar (US Army), Denton**

**Donald Graves (US Marine Corps), Fort Worth**

**Paul Perez Jr. (US Air Force), Flower Mound**

**Donald Phillips (US Navy), Denton**

**Johnnie Yellock II (US Air Force), Lantana**



## U.S. Service Academies

On April 2, I co-hosted the annual North Texas Academies Forum with 11 other congressional offices to inform high school students about the U.S. Service Academies. More than 800 students and parents attended. Students requesting appointments to the U.S. Service Academies are rigorously evaluated on a variety of criteria including academic performance, leadership qualifications and physical preparedness. Appointments to an academy must be preceded by a nomination from a Member of Congress, Academy Superintendent, the Vice President or a military connected nomination. The exception is the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, where a nomination is not required for consideration, but appointments are based upon a competitive nationwide admissions process. The 26th District Service Academy Board, comprised of academy graduates and representatives from higher education and the community, is chaired by Lt. General Charles R. Hamm, retired former Superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy and 26th District resident. The Board recommends to me for nomination those outstanding service academy candidates selected through comprehensive screenings and personal interviews.

On June 20, 20 outstanding students residing in the 26th District of Texas who accepted appointments to the U.S. Service Academies were honored at a reception hosted by the City of Denton and the Denton Enterprise Airport. These young men and women are attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY, and the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO. I presented the appointees with a Special Certificate of Congressional Recognition and an American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of their appointments.



# Special Recognition Programs Continued

## High School Art Competition: “An Artistic Discovery”

The 15th annual 26th District Art Competition, “An Artistic Discovery,” was open to public, private and home-schooled high school students residing in or attending schools in the district. Entries were submitted digitally by art teachers on behalf of their students. This provided an opportunity for a “Texas Choice” winner to be selected by popular vote in a virtual gallery on my website. Ms. Ashlyn Brightly was the winner of this category for her artwork entitled “Blooming Wood.” She is a senior at Flower Mound High School and her art instructor is Jason Hyde.

The competition was judged by professional artist Millie Giles. Giles reviewed the posted artwork online and determined the contest finalists based upon artistic merit, selecting a “Best of School” award for one student from each school based on her appraisal of artwork that had a high level of artistic merit and execution. These students were also finalists in the competition. I honored the finalists with a “Certificate of Congressional Recognition” at a reception on May 9th at the Patterson-Appleton Art Center in Denton hosted by the art competition’s co-sponsor, The Greater Denton Arts Council.

Ms. Scout Streit, a junior art student of Kathy Toews at Marcus High School in Flower Mound, won the Grand Prize in the 2017 competition with her color photograph entitled “Allegiance.” As the Grand Prize winner, Streit will have her artwork displayed for an entire year in the U.S. Capitol. Also, she attended the national ceremony honoring the winning artists from congressional districts all over the country in Washington, DC in June. In addition, Ms. Julia Adkins, a junior at Flower Mound High School and a student of Suzanne McLeod, won First Place for her photograph entitled “Children of Kenya.” Julia will have her artwork displayed in Congressman Burgess’ Lake Dallas district office for the next year.



## Legislative Work



### Snapshot of Legislative Accomplishments

- Participated in **28** hearings in the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Participated in more than **70** hearings in the Rules Committee
- Participated in **11** markups in the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Chaired **19** Subcommittee on Health hearings
- Stewarded **4** Health Subcommittee bills into law
- Cast **682** votes, a **98%** attendance record
- Introduced **34** bills
- Co-sponsored **109** bills
- Member of the Helsinki Commission

## Health Subcommittee

As Chairman, I presided over a busy and successful year on the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health.

The Subcommittee on Health has broad jurisdiction over the health sector, including private and public health insurance; biomedical research and development; hospital construction; health information technology, privacy, and cybersecurity; medical malpractice and medical malpractice insurance; the 340B drug discount program; the regulation of food, drugs, and cosmetics; drug abuse; the Department of Health and Human Services; the National Institutes of Health; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Indian Health Service; and all aspects of the above-referenced jurisdiction related to the Department of Homeland Security.

Upon my appointment as the Health Subcommittee's Chairman, I was immediately faced with two important tasks: deliver on our promise to reform health care by repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act; and drive efforts to reauthorize the FDA's user fee programs which were set to expire at the end of the 2017 Fiscal Year. These user fee programs have proved invaluable to both researchers and patients in expediting the FDA's review and approval process for therapies and cures while ensuring the agency's focus on public safety. While my first year as Chairman was filled with plenty of partisan discussions on our nation's direction in health care, it also saw a strong bipartisan commitment when my Subcommittee led the effort to reauthorize these programs in the Food and Drug Administration Reauthorization Act (FDARA). FDARA unanimously passed the House on July 12, 2017 and passed the Senate on August 3, 2017. President Trump signed this important bill into law on August 18, 2017.

The Subcommittee played a key role in the creation and passage of the American Health Care Act in the House. Along with many of my fellow Members, I followed through on my commitment to vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The American Health Care Act would provide immediate relief from the ACA by eliminating mandates and returning control back to the states. While a repeal effort has not passed in the Senate, the House has done its part in voting to repeal and replace the ACA with a plan that would provide Americans with greater freedom and states with increased flexibility in managing their health care.

Another success of the Subcommittee this year was House Passage of the CHAMPIONING HEALTHY KIDS Act (H.R. 3922). If enacted, this bill would extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding for another five years, through fiscal year 2022. This extension will provide financial stability for every state's CHIP program and certainty for children and their families. This bill also includes important provisions that extend funding for other health care programs, including a two-year extension for Federally Qualified Health Centers, Teaching Health Centers, and the Special Diabetes Programs for Type 1 Diabetes and Indians, respectively. This legislation also delays the \$5 billion in cuts to many of the hospitals across the country from the ACA-mandated Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital Reductions for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

In addition to the many legislative successes of the Subcommittee this year, I chaired many hearings on various issues that are essential to our nation's health care system. A few examples: On November 8, I chaired a subcommittee hearing that focused on the implementation of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, which was signed into law in 2015. Also, on the anniversary of its House passage, November 30, I chaired a hearing on the implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act. The hearing featured Dr. Scott Gottlieb, Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as witnesses.

We also focused on the opioid crisis, a problem that has affected countless individuals across North Texas and our country as a whole. 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.

As you can see, the Health Subcommittee had a busy and demanding 2017, and I look forward to further productive, insightful dialogue on critical health care issues in the coming year.

## Legislation Introduced in 2017

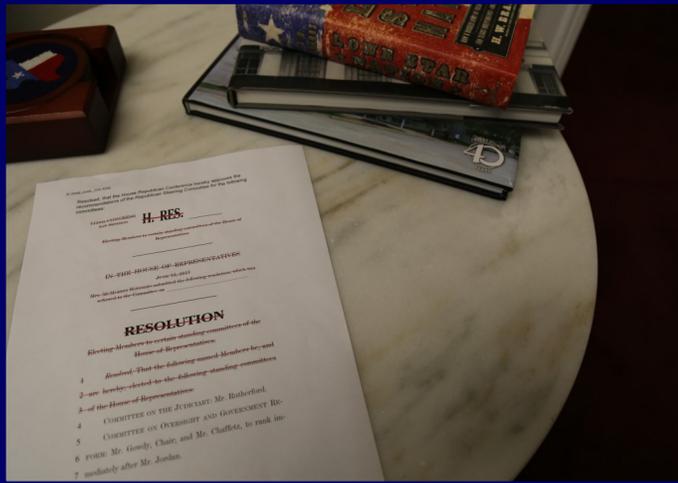
- **H.R. 120**, the Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) Assistance Control Act, introduced January 3, would reduce by \$15,000 per UAC the amount of foreign assistance to Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.
- **H.R. 129**, the No Armed Drones Act of 2017, introduced January 4, would prohibit the use of an unmanned aircraft system as a weapon while operating in the national air space.
- **H.R. 487**, introduced January 12 with Rep. Justin Amash (R-MI), would prohibit the Central Intelligence Agency from using an unmanned aerial vehicle to carry out a weapons strike or other deliberately lethal action and to transfer the authority to conduct such strikes or lethal action to the Department of Defense.
- **H.R. 1012**, the Group Term Life Insurance Increase Act of 2017, introduced February 13, would amend the Internal Revenue Code to increase the limit on the amount of employer-provided group term life insurance that an employee may exclude from his or her gross income for tax purposes.
- **H.R. 1040**, the Flat Tax Act, introduced February 14, would provide for an individual or business to choose to pay a flat income tax rate instead of continuing to pay under the current income tax system.
- **H.R. 1463**, the Equal Protection for American Workers Act, introduced March 21, would prohibit the Department of Homeland Security from granting a work authorization to an alien who has been determined, in a valid immigration proceeding, to have been at any time unlawfully present in the United States.
- **H.R. 4590**, introduced December 7 with Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX), Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), and Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX), would provide an exception to certain mandatory minimum sentence requirements for a person employed outside the United States by a Federal agency, who uses, carries, or possesses a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence committed while on-duty with a firearm required to be carried while on-duty.
- **H.R. 128**, the Semipostal Stamp Clarification Act of 2017, introduced January 3, would require that any new Semipostal Stamp (stamps sold by the USPS at a higher cost to raise funds for various causes) be created through an Act of Congress. Under current law, Semipostal Stamps are created and raise funds for any program directed by the USPS, without prior Congressional approval.
- **H.R. 117**, the Energy Efficiency Free Market Act of 2017, introduced January 3, 2017, would lift regulatory burdens on appliance manufacturers by eliminating all current and prohibiting future federal and state level regulations establishing specific energy efficiency and water conservation standards for consumer and commercial appliances. With massive advances in consumer technology taking place on an annual basis and consumer demand for highly efficient appliances at an all time high, there is no need for the federal government to stand in the way of the free market.
- **H.R. 119**, the Leave Ethanol Volumes at Existing Levels Act, introduced January 3, would repeal the 2007 amendments to the Renewable Fuel Standard, which required increased volumes of ethanol to be blended into the national fuel supply.
- **H.R. 880**, the MISSION ZERO Act, introduced on February 6, 2017 with Rep. Gene Green (D-TX), Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC), and Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL), would improve our nation's trauma care system with military-civilian partnerships by allowing for grants to be used to cover the costs of integrating military trauma care providers into trauma care. Senators Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), and John Cornyn (R-TX) have introduced companion legislation (S. 1022) in the Senate.
  - This bill passed by voice vote out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on July 27, 2017.

## Legislation Introduced in 2017

- **H.R. 3120**, introduced with Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Rep. Patrick Tiberi (R-OH), and Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) on June 29, 2017, would provide a common-sense solution for the burden of electronic health records that negatively impacts both patients and providers, resulting in better care. Electronic health records have failed to live up to their promise to improve health care delivery for patients. Unfortunately, current law places an arbitrary requirement on the Secretary of Health and Human Services to impose an increasingly stringent burden on physicians' use of these records systems.
  - This bill passed by voice vote out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on October 4, 2017.
- **H.R. 3263**, the Independence at Home Act Demonstration Extension, introduced with Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Rep. Peter Roskam (R-IL), and Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA), would extend the Medicare Independence at Home demonstration program, which puts patients and their families first by allowing them to stay at home as long as possible and incentivizing providers to coordinate the care they provide to their patients.
  - This bill passed by voice vote of out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on October 4, 2017.
- **H.R. 35**, the Health Savings Act of 2017, introduced on January 3, 2017 with Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC) and Rep. John Carter (R-TX), would ease the restrictions imposed by the tax code for broader use of health savings accounts. This legislation would ensure that necessary improvements will be made to Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) to allow patients more control over how they finance their health care needs.
- **H.R. 1395**, the MACPAC Improvement Act, introduced on March 7, 2017 with Rep. Chris Collins (R-NY), Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), and Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), would enhance the program integrity and reduce conflicts of interest within the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC). The bill would also require MACPAC to report on issues regarding program growth and sustainability of federal and state funding for Medicaid.
- **H.R. 2953**, the Preventive Health Scoring Act, introduced on June 20, 2017 with 20 original cosponsors, would direct the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to analyze scientific medical data to provide information on the savings of preventive health initiatives in the two 10-year periods beyond the existing 10-year budget window. This legislation will provide a more accurate projection for programs with children and other populations or diseases with longer development periods. It is a responsible approach and will ensure that the government calculates the savings of preventive health.
- **H.R. 3728**, the Educating Medical Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency and Readiness (EMPOWER) Act, introduced on September 11, 2017 with Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL) and Rep. Larry Buschon (R-IN) would reauthorize funding for health professions workforce programs, including: health professions training for diversity; primary care training and enhancement; training in general, pediatric, and public health dentistry; and area health education centers. It also includes provisions to enhance education and training relating to geriatrics.
- **H.R. 1011**, the Health and Human Services Hiree Clarification Act, introduced on February 13, 2017, would clarify that the hiring of special consultants or authorizing individual scientists as fellows does not authorize that individual to be appointed or employed by agencies other than the Department of Health and Human Services.
- **H.R. 1922**, the Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act of 2017, introduced on April 5, 2017 with Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), would create standard minimum requirements for Title IV student aid funding for medical schools operating outside of the United States and Canada. If medical schools outside of the U.S. are going to receive federal money, they need to meet the standards of education those taxpayer dollars were meant to fund. This bill would close a loophole and disallow foreign schools from accessing huge amounts of federal dollars at the expense of education and doctor quality. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) have introduced Senate companion legislation.

## Legislation Sponsored as Lead Republican

- **H.R. 3079**, the Audit the Pentagon Act, was introduced with Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) on June 27. This bill would reduce by one-half of one percent the discretionary budget authority of the Department of Defense (DOD) for a fiscal year if the financial statement of the DOD for the previous fiscal year does not receive a qualified or unqualified audit opinion by an external independent auditor.
- **H.R. 2410**, the Sickle Cell Disease Research Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2017, introduced with Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL) on May 11, 2017, would authorize grants to agencies to conduct surveillance and organize data on the millions of patients with Sickle Cell Disease. This legislation provides an important step forward in advancing our understanding of sickle cell disease and maintaining access to services for those affected. This bill passed by voice vote out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on June 7, 2017.



## 2017 Priority Cosponsored Legislation

In 2017, I cosponsored **109** pieces of legislation. Below are a sampling of these priority pieces of legislation:

- **H.R. 4396**, the ME TOO Congress Act was introduced by Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) on November 15. This bill would revise the Congressional Accountability Act to streamline the harassment complaint process in order to prevent and respond to sexual harassment in Congress.
- **H.R. 3711**, the Legal Workforce Act was introduced by Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) on October 25. This bill would direct the Department of Homeland Security to establish an employment eligibility verification system patterned after the E-verify system.
- **H.R. 3548**, the Border Security for America Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) on July 28. This bill would authorize a border wall, add 10,000 border patrol agents and officers, and fully deploy the biometric entry-exit system.
- **H.R. 2909**, the D.C. Personal Protection Reciprocity Act was introduced by Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) on June 15. This bill would allow a person with a concealed carry license to also carry in the District of Columbia.
- **H.R. 2826**, the Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Raul Labrador (R-ID) on June 8. This bill would establish the refugee cap at 50,000 and require the Department of Homeland Security to prioritize applications from religious minorities if they are from areas of particular concern.
- **H.R. 2188**, the Community Counterterrorism Preparedness Act was introduced by Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) on April 27. This bill would create a Department of Homeland Security grant program for communities to prepare for terrorist attacks and run exercises.
- **H.R. 2174**, the Unauthorized Spending Accountability Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-WA) on April 26. This bill would establish a three-year budgetary level reduction schedule for unauthorized programs that have been funded through the annual appropriations process.
- **H.R. 2150**, the Flags of Convenience Don't Fly Here Act was introduced by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) on April 26. This bill would ensure that permits issued by the Department of Transportation to foreign air carriers under the United States-Europe open skies agreement do not undermine labor rights or standards.
- **H.R. 2029**, the SIGN Act was introduced by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX) on April 6. This bill would direct the Federal Highway Administration of the Department of Transportation to issue a final rule that approves the use of Clearview font on road guide signs.
- **H.R. 1997**, the Ukraine Cybersecurity Cooperation Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA) on April 6. This bill would express the sense of Congress that the State Department should help Ukraine improve its cybersecurity by providing Ukraine with the necessary support to increase security protections.
- **H.R. 1911**, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) on April 5. This bill would raise the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism to the rank of ambassador appointed by the President.
- **H.R. 1865**, the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO) on April 3. This bill would lift barriers that prevent the Federal government and law enforcement from pursuing justice against online sex traffickers.



## 2017 Priority Cosponsored Legislation

- **H.R. 1698**, the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act was introduced by Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) on March 23. This bill would require a report to Congress regarding Iran's supply chain that supports their ballistic missile program. It would also require the President to determine if any Iranian ballistic missile test violates a United Nations Security Council Resolution, and would direct the President to impose sanctions on sectors and individuals in Iran related to ballistic missile activity.
- **H.R. 1334**, the ALERTED Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA) on March 2. This bill would require United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to promptly respond to a law enforcement official's inquiry about a suspected illegal alien in custody for a violation of any law.
- **H.R. 1164**, the Taylor Force Act was introduced by Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO) on February 16. This bill would prohibit certain foreign assistance to the West Bank and Gaza unless the Department of States certifies that the Palestinian Authority has terminated payments for acts of terrorism against U.S. and Israeli citizens.
- **H.R. 1096**, the Judgment Fund Transparency Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT) on February 15. This bill would require the Department of Treasury to disclose details not prohibited by law after payments are made from the Judgment Fund, and prohibits payments to a state sponsor of terror.
- **H.R. 877**, the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Monument Act was introduced by Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV) on February 6. This bill would direct the Department of the Army to place a cemetery honoring Vietnam helicopter pilots and crew in Arlington National Cemetery.
- **H.R. 830**, the STAND for Ukraine Act was introduced by Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) on February 2. This bill would prohibit a federal agency from extending any assistance that recognizes Russian sovereignty over Crimea, authorizes the President to impose sanctions against foreign persons responsible for human rights violations, and supports efforts to respond to Russian-supported disinformation and propaganda efforts.
- **H.R. 620**, the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) on January 24. This bill would prohibit civil actions based on the failure to remove an architectural barrier to access a public accommodation unless the owners have been provided with written notice and the owners have failed to remove the barrier or make substantial progress after receiving notice.
- **H.R. 591**, the Use Spending for Congressional Immigration Supervision Act, or USCIS Act, was introduced by Rep. Dave Brat (R-VA) on January 20. This bill would make the United States Customs and Immigration Services subject to appropriations instead of funding itself through user fees.
- **H.R. 582**, the Kari's Law Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) on January 17. This bill would require future multi-line telephone systems to directly initiate a 9-1-1 call without having to dial an additional code or prefix. This bill passed the House of Representatives on January 23.
- **H.R. 426**, the Protecting Lives Using Surplus Equipment Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. John Ratcliffe (R-TX) on January 10. This bill would invalidate any regulation, rule, or policy after May 2015 that limits the sale or donation of excess federal property to state and local law enforcement agencies.
- **H.R. 422**, the Default Prevention Act was introduced by Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA) on January 10. This bill would require the Department of Treasury to continue to borrow to pay the principal and interest on certain debt obligations if the United States exceed the statutory limit.
- **H.R. 400**, the Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act was introduced by Rep. Diane Black (R-TN) on January 10. This bill would prohibit sanctuary jurisdictions from receiving grants under certain Economic Development Assistance Programs and the Community Development Block Grant Program.
- **H.R. 390**, the Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) on January 10. This bill would direct the State Department to provide assistance to

## 2017 Priority Cosponsored Legislation

minority ethnic and religious communities to address crimes of genocide in Iraq and encourage foreign governments to prosecute individuals suspected of committing crimes against humanity and genocide. This bill passed the House of Representatives on June 6.

- **H.R. 387**, the Email Privacy Act was introduced by Rep. Kevin Yoder (R-KS) on January 9. This bill would require the government to obtain a warrant before accessing emails, social media, and online content stored in the cloud by internet service providers. This bill passed the House of Representatives on February 6.
- **H.R. 358** was introduced by Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA) on January 6. This bill would allow firearms or ammunition to be transported between two states where it is legal to possess, carry, or transport firearms, if the firearms is in a locked container that is separate from ammunition in another locked container.
- **H.R. 350**, the Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports Act of 2017, or RPM Act of 2017, was introduced by Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC) on January 6. This bill would amend the Clean Air Act to allow the modification of a vehicle's air emission controls if it is used solely for competition.
- **H.R. 300**, Sarah's Law was introduced by Rep. David Young (R-IA) on January 5. This bill would require the detention of an illegal alien that has been charged with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person.
- **H.R. 241**, the Timely Repatriation Act was introduced by Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) on January 4. This bill would revoke the diplomatic visas of a country that does not repatriate its citizens that have been deported from the United States.
- **H.R. 176**, the New Illegal Deduction Elimination Act was introduced by Rep. Steve King (R-IA) on January 3. This bill would deny a tax deduction for wages and benefits paid to or on behalf of an unauthorized alien and makes permanent the E-verify program.
- **H.R. 82** was introduced by Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) on January 3. This bill would make a 1% across-the-board rescission in discretionary non-defense, non-homeland security, and non-veterans affairs spending for FY2017 and FY2018.
- **H.R. 82**, the Criminal Alien Deportation Enforcement Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX) on January 3. This bill would withhold foreign aid and travel visas from a country that refuses or delays to accept their citizens that have been ordered deported.
- **H.R. 80**, the Resettlement Accountability National Security Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX) on January 3. This bill would prohibit the admission of alien refugees into the United States unless Congress passes a joint resolution giving the Department of Homeland Security authority to resume admitting them.
- **H.R. 71**, the Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act was introduced by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) on January 3. This bill would require the Office of Management and Budget to provide program activities, funding amounts, and performance information for federal programs that exceed \$1 million in budget authority. This bill passed the House of Representatives on January 4.
- **H.R. 38**, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) on January 3. This bill would allow a qualified individual to carry a concealed handgun into another state that allows individuals to carry concealed firearms. This bill passed the House of Representatives on December 6.
- **H.R. 26**, the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA) on January 3. This bill would require all new regulatory rules that have an impact of \$100 million or more to be approved by Congress and the President. This bill passed the House of Representatives on January 5.

## 2017 Priority Cosponsored Legislation

- **H.Res. 630** was introduced by Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA) on November 28. This resolution would require all Members, officers, and employees of the House of Representatives to complete training on workplace rights and responsibilities, including anti-discrimination and anti-harassment training. This resolution passed the House of Representatives on November 29.
- **H.R. 1722**, the Protecting American Jobs Act, was introduced by Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA) on March 24. This legislation would reform the National Labor Relations Board, repealing numerous rule making and prosecutorial authorities and giving these powers back to the courts.
- **H.R. 2723**, the Employee Rights Act, was introduced by Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN) on May 25, 2017. This legislation would require opt-in permission from union members in order for unions to use union dues for any purpose except collective bargaining. Furthermore, this legislation would require periodic re-certification elections of unions in order to give employees the opportunity to opt-out of union representation.
- **H.R. 2315** was introduced by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) on May 3. This legislation would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the four victims of the attack in Benghazi.
- **H.R. 3441**, the Save Local Business Act, was introduced by Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-AL) on July 27. This legislation would restore the definition of joint employer and reverse the 2015 joint-employer standard ruling by the National Labor Relations Board. This legislation passed the House on November 7.
- **H.R. 3725**, was introduced with Patrick Tiberi (R-OH) on September 8, 2017. This bill would repeal the individual health insurance mandate that was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act. Obamacare's individual mandate fundamentally alters the relationship between the government and the governed, severely limiting individual freedom. This bill would provide the American people immediate relief from this overstep.
- **H.R. 3178**, the Medicare Part B Improvement Act, was introduced on July 11, 2017 by Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX). This bill would improve delivery of home infusion therapy and dialysis and expand access to treatments such as orthotics and prosthetics. The legislation would also allow for the expansion of telehealth services for Medicare beneficiaries who obtain dialysis in their homes. This bill passed the House on July 25, 2017.
- **H.R. 184**, the Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2017, was introduced on January 3, 2017 by Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN). This bill would repeal the excise tax on medical devices that was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act.
- **H.R. 407**, the Tax Free Health Insurance Act of 2017, was introduced on January 10, 2017 by Rep. Steve King (R-IA). This bill would allow taxpayers to deduct health insurance premiums paid for coverage of the taxpayer, spouse, and dependents from their gross income for tax purposes.
- **H.R. 2327**, the Puppies Assisting Wounded Service members (PAWS) Act of 2017, was introduced on May 3, 2017 by Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL). This bill directs the Department of Veterans' Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which the VA will provide service dogs and veterinary health insurance to certain veterans who served on active duty after September 11, 2001, and were diagnosed with, and continue to suffer from, severe post-traumatic stress disorder.
- **H.R. 850**, the Agency Accountability Act of 2017 was introduced by Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL) on February 3, 2017. This bill would any agency that receives proceeds from a settlement to deposit the amount in the general fund of the Treasury.

## 2017 Priority Cosponsored Legislation

- **H.R. 490**, the Heartbeat Protection Act of 2017, was introduced on January 12, 2017 by Rep. Steve King (R-IA). This bill would prohibit abortion in any case in which a fetal heartbeat is detectable. It would also put in place fines for physicians who perform abortions without determining whether or not the fetus has a heartbeat.
- **H.R. 1148**, the FAST Act of 2017, was introduced on February 16, 2017 by Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA). This bill would expand access to telehealth-eligible stroke services under the Medicare program. These eligible services include those related to the diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of symptoms of an acute stroke within four and a half hours of the onset of symptoms. This legislation passed the Energy and Commerce Committee on October 4, 2017.
- **H.R. 3497**, the Modernization of Medical Records Access for Veterans Act of 2017, was introduced on July 27, 2017 by Rep. Kathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). This bill would direct the VA to establish a pilot program geared towards the creation of a secure, patient-centered, portable medical records system. Such a system would allow veterans to access their personal comprehensive medical records and share it with their doctors, which would help to ensure complete medical records for our veterans.
- **H.R. 1156**, the Patient Access to Higher Quality Health Care Act of 2017, was introduced on February 16, 2017 by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX). This bill would repeal a provision of the Affordable Care Act that prohibits expansion of many physician-owned hospitals.
- **H.R. 2465**, the Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act of 2017, was introduced on May 16, 2017 by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). This bill would permanently remove the rental cap for speech generating devices under Medicare's durable medical equipment program, building upon the Steve Gleason Act of 2015, which removed the rental cap through October 1, 2018. This bill passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on October 4, 2017.
- **H.R. 2519**, the American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, was introduced on May 18, 2017 by Rep. Timothy Walz (D-MN). This legislation requires the Treasury to create commemorative coins in honor of the 100th anniversary of the American Legion. These coins will help to raise money for the American Legion's important causes, including promoting the importance of caring for current and former members of the Armed Forces. The President signed this bill into law on October 6, 2017.
- **H.R. 2372**, the Veterans Equal Treatment Ensures Relief and Access Now (VETERAN) Act, was introduced on May 4, 2017 by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX). This legislation would clarify eligibility for the premium tax credit in relation to the veteran health insurance. This bill passed the House by voice vote on June 15, 2017.
- **H.R. 2663**, the Home Health Documentation and Program Improvement Act of 2017, was introduced on May 25, 2017 by Rep. Kenny Marchant (R-TX). This bill would alter documentation of eligibility for Medicare home health services and require the establishment of a settlement process for the consideration of home health claims.
- **H.R. 4131**, the No Abortion Bonds Act, was introduced on October 25, 2017 by Rep. Robert Pittenger (R-NC). This bill would require federal taxation of bonds used for facilities owned by certain abortion providers.
- **H.R. 719**, the Academic Partnerships Lead Us to Success (A-PLUS) Act, was introduced by Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC) on January 27. This legislation would allow states and communities to opt out of programs outlined by the Every Student Succeeds Act and repurposing those federal funds to educational programs which better suit their communities.
- **H.R. 4274**, the Higher Education Reform and Opportunity (HERO) Act, was introduced by Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) on November 7. This legislation would increase the ability of states to develop their own accreditation systems for higher education. Furthermore, the HERO Act would increase the flexibility of Title IV funds to experiment and pursue a wide-range of high education opportunities.

## 2017 Legislative Accomplishments

- **SELF-DRIVE Act, H.R. 3388:** On September 6, the House passed this first-of-its-kind legislation to allow the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to ensure the safe and innovative development, testing, and deployment of self-driving cars. During the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, Congressman Burgess chaired the Energy & Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, where the process of drafting self-driving vehicle legislation began. The subcommittee examined the advanced technology behind autonomous vehicles, the balance between innovation and regulation, and privacy protections for consumers. The subcommittee also participated in in-person demonstrations by some of the industry's leading manufacturers. These actions laid the foundation for the SELF-DRIVE Act. The Energy and Commerce Committee will continue to work with the Senate to enact self-driving vehicle legislation into law.
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- A photograph of Congressman Burgess, a man in a dark suit and glasses, sitting at a long wooden table in a hearing room. He is gesturing with his right hand while speaking into a microphone. In front of him is a nameplate that reads "MR. BURGESS TEXAS". To his left, another nameplate reads "MR. BARTON TEXAS". There are glasses of water on the table. In the background, other people are seated at the table, and a flag is visible.
- **H.J.Res. 40:** In the last year of his term, President Obama's Social Security Administration issued a rule that would report to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) the names of social security beneficiaries that have been appointed a fiduciary to manage their financial matters. This overreaching rule would have prevented thousands of individuals who were otherwise permitted to purchase a firearm from doing so because they needed help managing their finances. Under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), Congress has 60 days to evaluate and overturn federal regulations using an expedited process. When Congress convened for the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, one of the first things we did was use CRA authority to overturn this rule. H.J.Res. 40 was signed into law on February 28.
  - **The HEALTHY KIDS Act, H.R. 3921:** This bill, which I introduced on October 3, 2017, would extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a program that is vital to health care access for more than eight million low-income children across the country, for an additional five years. Additionally, this legislation delays the \$5 billion in cuts to many of the hospitals across the country from the ACA-mandated Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital Reductions for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. This bill passed the House on November 3, 2017 as part of the CHAMPIONING HEALTHY KIDS Act (H.R. 3922).
  - **The Medicaid Third Party Liability Act, H.R. 938:** This bill, which I introduced on February 7, 2017 with Rep. Bill Flores (R-TX) and Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY), would clarify the situations in which third parties would be legally obligated to pay for medical services provided under Medicaid. This bill would ensure that if an individual receives Medicaid coverage along with any additional source of coverage, the additional payer is liable for the claims first. The intent of this legislation is to make sure that states are not left on the hook for claims that they are not statutorily liable for. This bill passed the House on November 3, 2017 as part of the CHAMPIONING HEALTHY KIDS Act (H.R. 3922).
  - **The Improving Access to Maternity Care Act, H.R. 315:** Across the country, women with the greatest need for maternity care services lack access to providers of such care. In an effort to increase the number of maternity health providers practicing in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), I introduced H.R. 315 on January 5, 2017 with Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA). This bill would establish a maternity care HPSA designation, in addition to dental, mental health, and primary care, so that maternity professionals who wish to participate in a primary care shortage area can seek placement in communities that need them most. This bill passed the House on suspension on January 9, 2017, which was within four days of introduction. This bill also passed the House in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

## 2017 Non-Legislative Accomplishments

- **Audit the Pentagon:** In 1990, Congress passed the Chief Financial Officers Act requiring every Department and Agency in the Federal Government to produce verifiable financial statements that can be fully audited. To date, each major Agency has been able to complete this task except the Department of Defense (DOD). For the past several years, I have introduced an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requiring the DOD to rank every entity within the DOD in order from most ready to be audited to least ready. The amendment has been signed into law for the past two NDAA's and the DOD is finally producing a ranking of auditability. However, they still have not completed an audit. That is why I introduced this amendment again in the FY2018 NDAA. Multi-year reports will allow comparison on the DOD's progress towards a verifiable audit and keep them accountable in working toward complying with the law. On December 7, the Comptroller of the DOD, David Norquist, said the Pentagon will begin its long-awaited audit in December 2017, and it will become an annual audit beginning in fiscal year 2018 with audit reports released every November 15.
- **Lewisville Dam:** For the past several years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has undertaken a Dam Safety Modification Study to determine areas of the Lewisville Dam in need of maintenance and improvement. Following the significant flooding event in 2015 that led to a slide on the dam, Congressman Burgess engaged constantly with the USACE in TX-26 and with leaders in Washington, D.C. to expedite completion of this study and commencement of construction. The final project will stabilize the dam, stop seepage, and repair and strengthen the emergency spillway. Work is estimated to begin a full two years ahead of schedule and cost much less than initially estimated. On November 6, Congressman Burgess wrote a letter to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Mr. Mick Mulvaney, as well as the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army, Mr. Douglas Lamont, to urge that for the FY2018 work plan and FY2019 budget the Dam Safety program be funded at a level that will allow the USACE to complete all preconstruction activities as well as commence construction in 2018.



# Helsinki Commission: Commission on Security & Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

The Helsinki Commission is an independent federal agency created in 1976 to monitor and encourage compliance with the Helsinki Final Act, or Helsinki Accords. The Commission consists of nine members from the U.S. Senate, nine members from the U.S. House of Representatives, and one member each from the Departments of State, Defense, and Commerce. The Commission convenes public hearings and briefings on OSCE-related topics, issues public reports and organizes official delegations to participating states. The Commission includes 57 participating states and 11 partners for cooperation.

## **Russia Focus**

In 2017, the Helsinki Commission maintained a focus on Russia following allegations of Russian meddling in the United States' 2016 elections. Our intelligence community assessed that Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign aimed at the election in order to undermine faith in the democratic process by conducting covert intelligence operations and overtly disseminating false information. Russia's attempt to influence our election was not the only goal; Russia is conducting a long-term campaign to undermine the U.S.-led liberal democratic order. Previously, Russia conducted campaigns against Estonia, Georgia, and Ukraine. In addition to disinformation efforts in the U.S., Russia is aiming to disrupt the European Union and sow distrust of NATO to accelerate its dissolution. There is no evidence that Russian interference in our election amounted to the actual changing of votes. It is paramount that the United States engages with the American public and our allies to ensure that Russia's information war does not succeed. The Helsinki Commission is doing just that by focusing many of its hearings and briefings on Russia's activities.

## **Hearings**

This year the OSCE held hearings on the victims of Turkey's crack down following a July coup d'état attempt, Russian disinformation campaigns, the Russian military threat in Europe, democracy and human rights abuses in Russia, and the Romanian anti-corruption process.

## **Briefings**

This year the OSCE held briefings on pursuing justice for atrocities in the western Balkans, saving refugees and migrants on the seas, Ukraine from the front lines, Ukraine's fight against corruption, violations of religious freedom, internet freedom in the OSCE region, the crime of international parental child abduction, countering radicalization, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, human trafficking, kleptocracy in Russia, building cyber confidence between adversaries, energy (in)security in Russia's periphery, systemic attacks on journalists in Russia, Russia's human rights violations, and countering corruption in the OSCE region, among other topics.



## Sponsored Legislation Offered on Behalf of the Rules Committee on the House Floor

In 2017, I managed 7 Rules on the House floor, providing for the consideration of key pieces of legislation pertaining to health care and energy policy.

### Amendments Offered in the House Rules Committee

I supported key amendments to major pieces of legislation so that they could be considered by the full House, including legislation passed by the Energy & Commerce Committee to continue funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides health insurance to low-income children throughout the state of Texas.

### Amendments Offered on the House Floor

- **H.Amdt.253:** The House accepted this amendment to the FY2018 Omnibus appropriations legislation to prohibit the enforcement of the 2007 Energy law which banned the sale of 90-watt incandescent lightbulbs. This amendment has been accepted every year since 2011 and has prevented the Department of Energy from enforcing its ban on the sale of these light bulbs ever since, protecting consumer freedom and choice. The amendment prohibits the use of funds to implement or enforce provisions with respect to BPAR, BR and ER incandescent reflector lamps. An amendment numbered 17 is printed in the Congressional Record to prohibit the use of funds to implement or enforce section 430.32(x), with respect to light bulbs.
- **H.Amdt.425:** The House accepted this amendment to the FY2018 Omnibus appropriations legislation, to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from abusing U.S. Code Title 42 Public Health Services Act, which authorizes the hiring of government employees outside of the normal "GS" pay-scale. While written exclusively for the Department of Health and Human Services in order to incentivize health care industry leaders to work for the federal government in unique circumstances, the EPA has used Title 42 since 2006 to hire dozens of new employees off the GS pay scale. This has cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars for just 50 employees. H.Amdt.425 prohibits the EPA from hiring any new employees under Title 42, or transferring any current employees from the GS-scale to Title 42.
- **H. Amdt. 425:** I offered an amendment to the September Continuing Resolution to fully fund the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting (NASPER) program. This program has long provided Congress with an opportunity to help prevent the spread of opioids across the country; however, until September of this year, Congress had not funded it. NASPER funding supports the development and maintenance of a state-run prescription drug monitoring program, which allows for doctors and pharmacists to electronically confer and ensure that a patient is not receiving duplicate opioid prescriptions that the patient may then divert or sell.

# Letters I Led

- On January 9, I led a letter with Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) to Rep. Gregg Harper (R-MS) and Rep. Robert Brady (D-PA) of the Committee on House Administration, requesting that the Committee re-register the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus as a Congressional Member Organization for the 115th Congress.
- On February 7, I led a letter with Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI), Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ), and Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), and joined by 24 Members of Congress, to Secretary of Transportation, Elaine Chao, to express concerns that recent activity by the Federal Highway Administration concerning the Motorcyclist Advisory Council may produce insufficient representation of the motorcycle community.
- On March 15, I led a letter signed by 3 Members of Congress to Acting Ambassador of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), Stephan Vaughn, expressing concerns that the USTR may include motorcycles on the list of products subject to retaliatory duties related to the Request to Reinstate Action Taken in Connection with the EU's Measures Concerning Meat and Meat Products.
- On November 6, I sent a letter to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Mick Mulvaney, and the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army, Douglas Lamont, to urge sufficient funding for repairs to the Lake Lewisville Dam in Fiscal Year 2018 and FY2019.
- On August 24, I sent a letter with Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) to the Undersecretary of Defense, Comptroller, David Norquist, to provide information on the Audit the Pentagon Act and encourage work towards a verifiable audit opinion for the Department of Defense.



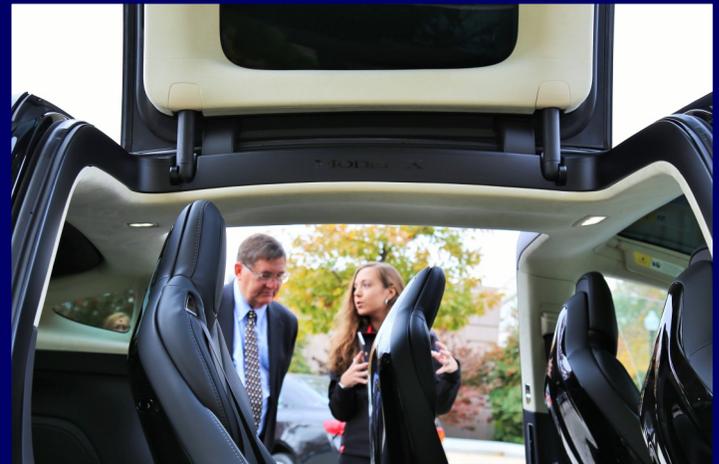
## Letters Signed as Chairman of Health Subcommittee

- On January 11, I signed a letter led by Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and joined by 2 Members of Congress, to the Commissioners of The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission requesting that the commission compile a comprehensive report on optional eligibility groups covered and optional benefits in each State Medicaid program in 2017.
- On May 30, I signed a letter led by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and joined by 5 other Members of Congress, to the Comptroller General of the United States, Gene Dodaro, requesting to become addressees of the final GAO report from the ongoing review of the fraud-risk management practices of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- On June 1, I signed a letter with Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Tim Murphy (R-PA) to the Administrator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), George Sigounas, requesting HRSA to release all documents referred or related to covered entity audits conducted during Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016 in order to assist with the Committee on Energy and Commerce's oversight into the implementation of the 340B Program.
- On June 7, I signed a letter led by Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), and joined by 16 Members of the Texas delegation, to Secretary of Health and Human Service, Tom Price, and Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Seema Verma, to request that CMS grant a 21-month extension of the Medicaid 1115 waiver.
- On June 14, I signed a letter with Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-WA) to the Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Scott Gottlieb, M.D., to urge the FDA to reinforce the preemption of any state or municipal law, regulation, or other requirement that is not identical to the federal standard for nutrition labeling.
- On July 13, I signed a letter with Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Tim Murphy (R-PA), Oversight and Investigations Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO), and Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX) to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Thomas Price, M.D., to request information regarding patient brokers, or those who profit from admitting patients into drug treatment centers and sober living homes.
- On October 20, I signed a letter led by Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), and joined by 4 members of the committee, to Dr. Jack Michel, owner of the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, requesting information related to every federal and state inspection on the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills following the deaths of 14 residents during Hurricane Irma to assist the committee's examination of emergency preparedness policies for, and federal oversight of, nursing homes.
- On November 17, I signed a letter led by Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX), and Oversight and Investigations Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO) to the Director of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, Thomas Betlach, requesting information from the state agency in the regulation and oversight of drug treatment facilities in the State of Arizona to further the continuing investigation of patient brokers in the wake of the nation's opioid crisis.
- On November 17, I signed a letter led by Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green (D-

# Letters Signed as Chairman of Health Subcommittee

TX), and Oversight and Investigations Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO) to the Deputy Director of the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders, Department of Health Care Services, Dr. Karen Baylor, Ph.D., requesting information from the state agency in the regulation and oversight of drug treatment facilities in the State of California to further the continuing investigation of patient brokers in the wake of the nation's opioid crisis.

- On November 17, I signed a letter led by Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX), and Oversight and Investigations Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO) to the Director of the Office of Behavioral Health, Colorado Department of Human Services, Dr. Robert Werthwein, requesting information from the state agency in the regulation and oversight of drug treatment facilities in the State of Colorado to further the continuing investigation of patient brokers in the wake of the nation's opioid crisis.
- On November 17, I signed a letter led by Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX), and Oversight and Investigations Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO) to the Director of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Florida Department of Children and Families, Ute Gazioch, requesting information from the state agency in the regulation and oversight of drug treatment facilities in the State of Florida to further the continuing investigation of patient brokers in the wake of the nation's opioid crisis.
- On November 17, I signed a letter led by Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX), and Oversight and Investigations Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO) to the Director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Allison Bauer, requesting information from the state agency in the regulation and oversight of drug treatment facilities in the State of Massachusetts to further the continuing investigation of patient brokers in the wake of the nation's opioid crisis.
- On November 17, I signed a letter led by Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX), and Oversight and Investigations Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO) to the Acting Secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Jennifer Smith, requesting information from the state agency in the regulation and oversight of drug treatment facilities in the State of Pennsylvania to further the continuing investigation of patient brokers in the wake of the nation's opioid crisis.



## Letters That I Cosigned in 2017

- On January 30, I signed a letter led by Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC), and joined by 16 Members of Congress, to President Trump urging him to remove Commissioner John Koskinen from his post at the Internal Revenue Service.
- On April 4, I signed a letter led by Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN), and joined by 69 Members of Congress, to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Chairman and Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK) and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), respectively, requesting that the subcommittee rescind funding to the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) for FY 2018.
- On April 5, I signed a letter led by Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), and joined by 162 Members of Congress, to President Donald Trump requesting that the President continue to adhere to the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) and the Six Assurances in future meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- On May 3, I signed a letter led by Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA), and joined by 124 Members of Congress, to Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, and Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, urging the departments to complete the Export Reform Control Initiative to reverse the classification of traditional gunsmiths as “manufacturers” and relieve them from having to register as exporters under the Arms Export Control Act and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations.
- On May 2, I signed a letter led by Rep. Phil Roe, (R-TN), and joined by 123 Members of Congress, to Secretary of Labor, Alexander Acosta, requesting that the Department delay the final rule entitled, "Definition of the term "Fiduciary"; Conflict of Interest Rule-Retirement Investment Advice, 81 Fed. Reg. 20946 (April 8, 2016)".
- On May 25, I signed a letter led by Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY), and joined by 9 Members of Congress, to Secretary of Energy, Rick Perry, to request the Department initiate a comprehensive plan to negotiate a long-term solution to the "barter" system of transfers from the federal excess uranium inventory.
- On June 16, I signed a letter led by Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH), and joined by 46 Members of Congress, to Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Richard Cordray, to request that the Director use his statutory authority under the Dodd-Frank Act to exempt community banks from rules under Section 1071 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.
- On June 26, I signed a letter led by Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL), and joined by 57 Members of Congress, to Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, requesting that she recuse herself from participation in any case regarding President Trump's executive order on immigration due to impartiality concerns.
- On June 29, I signed a letter led by Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-WA), and joined by 56 Members of Congress, to Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, urging the Secretary to use his position as co-chair of the U.S.-China Comprehensive Economic Dialogue to help ensure U.S. Cloud Service Providers have market access and fair competition in China.
- On June 30, I signed a letter led by Rep. Nita M. Lowey (D-NY), and joined by 143 Members of Congress, to Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, urging the Department to fill the position of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism and to maintain staff in the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism.
- On July 24, I signed a letter led by Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ) and joined by 56 Members of Congress to the Federal Trade Commission, Acting Chairwoman Maureen Ohlhausen urging the FTC to reconsider the proposed changes to the Contact Lens Rule, which are an unnecessary requirement for patients and costly regulatory burden on optometrists and ophthalmologists.
- On July 28, I signed a letter with the Texas delegation to the Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, Secretary of Transportation, Elaine Chao, and the Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, regarding subsidies to the Persian Gulf airlines from their respective governments, and how this harms the American airline industry.
- On August 25, I signed a letter led by Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-TX) and Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX), and joined by 15 Members of Congress, to President Trump requesting he approve Texas Governor Greg Abbott's request to declare a major emergency in areas affected by Hurricane Harvey.

## Letters That I Cosigned in 2017

- On September 21, I signed a letter led by Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) and Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), and joined by 32 Members of Congress, to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Ben Carson, urging him to allocate funds and issue guidance on spending for grants aimed at recovery efforts for Hurricane Harvey.
- On September 27, I signed a letter led by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and joined by 14 Members of Congress to Speaker of the House Paul Ryan requesting that taxpayer dollars be removed from abortion business like Planned Parenthood in the FY18 reconciliation bill.
- On October 4, I signed a letter led by Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX), and joined by 152 Members of Congress, to President Trump commending him for calling for a \$700 billion defense budget.
- On October 5, I signed a letter led by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, and joined by the Texas Congressional Delegation, to Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), and Rep. Nita Lowey (R-NY), requesting specific funding categories in Hurricane Harvey recovery supplemental appropriations.
- On October 11, I signed a letter led by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), and joined by 78 Members of Congress, to the Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the ATF requesting that the agency re-evaluate bump stock regulations.
- On October 31, I signed a letter led by Rep. Jodey Arrington, (R-TX), and joined by 34 Members from the Texas delegation, to Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, requesting assistance from the Department of Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture to control a cattle fever tick outbreak.
- On November 16, I signed a Texas Delegation letter led by Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) and Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Mick Mulvaney, to provide specific funding requests needed for an upcoming emergency supplemental appropriation.
- On December 6, I signed a letter led by Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX), and joined by 15 Members of Congress, to President Trump requesting action be taken to reduce the taxpayer burden of immigrants unable to support themselves by enforcing section 213 of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. This would prevent the burden of public assistance from falling on taxpayers by requiring applicants seeking to immigrate to post a Public Charge Bond as a condition of immigration.
- On December 7, I signed a letter led by Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX), and joined by 30 Members of Congress, to Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), and Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX), to oppose the repeal of the graduate tuition waivers in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

## Letters Cosigned as a Member of the Energy & Commerce Committee

- On April 7, I signed a letter led by Chairman Greg Walden (OR-02), and joined by 48 Members of Congress, to Chairman of the Federal Communication Commission (FCC), Ajit Pai, requesting that the FCC take measures to hold Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to the same privacy practice standards as administered under the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) until ISPs are returned to FTC jurisdiction.
- On October 10, I signed a letter led by Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), and joined by 23 Members of Congress, to the Internal Revenue Service Commissioner, John Koskinen, questioning the IRS' decision to offer a no-bid contract to Equifax following their announcement of a data breach.
- On October 16, I signed a letter led by Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), and joined by 23 Members of Congress, requesting information about the General Services Administration's consideration of data security practices when vetting vendors and awarding government contracts.

# Press and Communications

## Snapshot of Press and Communications

- More than **660** newspaper articles or blogs mentions
- **70** press releases issued
- More than **40** e-newsletters sent
- **100** YouTube videos posted
- **40** weekly video addresses published
- **40** radio interviews
- Remarks at more than **50** events
- **56** television interviews
  - **18** on local stations
  - **13** on MSNBC
  - **8** on CNN
  - **6** on Fox News
  - **10** on Fox Business
- **33%** increase in Twitter followers
- **15%** increase in Facebook audience



## Press Releases

In 2017, I sent out more than **70** press releases. Below are a few examples:

- [Burgess Selected as Subcommittee on Health Chairman](#) January 6, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on Little Elm Detective Jerry Walker](#) January 18, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on Inauguration of President Trump](#) January 20, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on President Executive Action on Refugees](#) January 29, 2017
- [Burgess Receives “Hero of Main Street” Award](#) February 1, 2017
- [Burgess on President Trump’s First Joint Address to Congress](#) February 28, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on Secretary Perry’s Confirmation](#) March 2, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on Energy & Commerce Passage of Legislation to Repeal and Replace ACA](#) March 9, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on Budget Committee Passage of the American Health Care Act](#) March 16, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on President Trump’s Budget](#) March 16, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on Secretary Perry’s Freeze on Obama Administration Energy Efficiency Rules](#) March 21, 2017
- [Burgess Named MS Society’s 2016 U.S. Representative of the Year](#) March 29, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on the Chemical Weapons Attack in Syria](#) April 5, 2017
- [Burgess Announces Winners of 2017 Congressional High School Art Competition](#) May 24, 2017
- [Burgess Announces Class of 2021 Service Academy Appointees](#) June 5, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on the Reinstatement of President Trump’s Executive Order](#) June 26, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on the Reintroduction of the Audit the Pentagon Act of 2017](#) June 27, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on Bipartisan Member Briefing on Maternal Mortality](#) June 28, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on House Passage of the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017](#) July 12, 2017
- [Burgess Welcomes Guest Chaplain Marshall Dunbar](#) July 20, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on Energy and Commerce Committee’s Passage of the SELF DRIVE Act](#) July 27, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on President Trump’s Signing of FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017](#) August 18, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on House Passage of the SELF DRIVE Act](#) September 6, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on House Passage of Harvey Funding](#) September , 2017
- [Reps. Burgess and Tiberi Introduce Bill to Repeal Obamacare’s Individual Mandate](#) September 12, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on Visits to Puerto Rico’s Medical Facilities](#) October 11, 2017
- [Texas Delegation Secures \\$15 Billion in Disaster Funds in Emergency Funding Bill](#) October 12, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on Efforts to Combat the Opioid Crisis](#) October 25, 2017
- [Burgess Statement on Passage of the FY 2018 Budget](#) October 26, 2017
- [Burgess Statement in Support of Vital Public Health Legislation](#) November 1, 2017

## Weekly Video Addresses

- [Fixing our Healthcare System](#) January 6, 2017
- [Relief from the ACA](#) January 13, 2017
- [Right to Be Heard](#) February 3, 2017
- [Nomination of Judge Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court](#) February 9, 2017
- [Telephone Town Hall Review](#) February 17, 2017
- [Immigration Update](#) February 24, 2017
- [Rebuilding Health Care for All Americans](#) March 15, 2017
- [Dr. Burgess joined CNN to talk healthcare reform](#) April 28, 2017
- [Dr. Burgess Joined CNN's "OutFront with Erin Burnett"](#) May 4, 2017
- [National Police Week](#) May 11, 2017
- [The Importance of Oversight in Congress](#) May 19, 2017
- [Remembering American Service Members on Memorial Day](#) May 26, 2017
- [Dr. Burgess Special Memorial Day Address](#) May 29, 2017
- [Withdrawing from the Paris Accord](#) June 9, 2017
- [Reflection on the Congressional Baseball Game](#) June 16, 2017
- [Audit the Pentagon](#) June 23, 2017
- [Celebrating Military Expertise and American Freedom](#) June 30, 2017
- [Remembering Fallen Dallas Police Officers](#) July 7, 2017
- [House Passage of the 2018 NDAA](#) July 14, 2017
- [House Passage of Appropriations Bill](#) July 28, 2017
- [Dr. Burgess Reflects on Violence in Charlottesville](#) August 15, 2017
- [Honoring Our Veterans' Commitment to Unity](#) August 25, 2017
- [Hurricane Harvey's Impact on Texas](#) September 1, 2017
- [Providing Relief of Victims of Hurricane Harvey](#) September 8, 2017



# Weekly Video Addresses

- [Supporting Emergency Responders](#) September 15, 2017
- [Appropriations Update](#) September 22, 2017
- [Tax Reform](#) September 29, 2017
- [Update on Hurricane Relief](#) October 13, 2017
- [Combating the Opioid Crisis](#) October 20, 2017
- [A Budget to Build a Better America](#) October 27, 2017
- [Championing Healthy Kids & Vital Health Programs](#) November 3, 2017
- [Veterans Day](#) November 10, 2017
- [Pro-Growth, Pro-Family, Pro-American Tax Reform](#) November 17, 2017
- [Giving Thanks](#) November 24, 2017
- [Marking One Year of 21st Century Cures](#) December 1, 2017
- [Protecting Second Amendment Rights](#) December 8, 2017
- [Protecting Those Who Serve Our Nation](#) December 15, 2017
- [Tax Reform Special Address](#) December 20, 2017
- [Merry Christmas](#) December 22, 2017
- [Year End Report: 2017](#) December 29, 2017



# Television Interviews

Here are a sampling of the 56 television interviews that I gave this year:

- [Fox Business “Mornings with Maria” on Health Care Reform](#) January 3, 2017
- [Fox and Friends: Fixing the Broken Health Care System](#) January 5, 2017
- [NBC 5: President Trump’s Inauguration](#) January 20, 2017
- [NBC 5’s Lone Star Politics: Hopes for the New Administration](#) January 23, 2017
- [MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” on Health Care Reform](#) March 20, 2017
- [MSNBC’s “For the Record with Greta Van Susteren”](#) on the AHCA March 23, 2017
- [Fox News on the AHCA](#) April 6, 2017
- [CBS 11: Emergency Preparedness Summit](#) April 11, 2017
- [NBC 5’s Lone Star Politics: Syria](#) April 11, 2017
- [CNN’s “New Day”](#) May 4, 2017
- [MSNBC’s “All in with Chris Hayes”](#) June 22, 2017
- [CNN’s “At This Hour”](#) June 22, 2017
- [WFAA’s “Inside Texas Politics”](#) July 6, 2017
- [MSNBC’s “Live with Velshi and Ruhle”](#) July 18, 2017
- [MSNBC’s “Hardball with Chris Matthews”](#) July 18, 2017
- [CNN’s “At This Hour”](#) July 19, 2017
- [NBC 5’s “Lone Star Politics”](#) August 14, 2017
- [CNN’s “New Day”](#) August 31, 2017
- [Fox 4’s “Good Day”](#) October 16, 2017
- [Fox News on Health Care Reform](#) October 17, 2017



## Meetings and Events

Below is some footage from events held this year.

- [Emergency Preparedness Summit](#), April 8, 2017
- [Flower Mound Town Hall](#), March 4, 2017
- [Fort Worth Town Hall](#), April 22, 2017
- [Aubrey Town Hall](#), August 3, 2017
- [The Colony Town Hall](#), August 5, 2017



## Awards Received



I am honored to have been awarded credentials from organizations and groups for the common-sense and pro-growth work I do on behalf of North Texas. A few of the awards I received this year come from the following groups and associations: The American Conservative Union, the United States Chamber, the National Taxpayers Union, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Health Care Champion Award for Effective Leadership, and the Vietnam Veterans of America Texas State Council.

## Connect With Me

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Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

2017

# YEAR-END REPORT

Working for North Texas



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