

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address January 30, 2014 “Border Visit Recap”

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Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. Last weekend, I had the opportunity to again travel to McAllen, Texas to tour the area that has been hit hardest with illegal immigration.

We have talked about it before – the flood of illegal immigration on the Southern border is indeed an American crisis. And while the story might have momentarily left the front page, we know the problem has not gone away. And it is hitting Texas families hardest.

Many of you have called my office and spoken out on this issue. Over the summer, it was the number one concern I heard at our district town hall meetings. These individuals, many of whom are children who were trafficked illegally on a treacherous journey across our border, are placing a strain on our system. They are crowding our schools and hospitals and draining the resources provided by our hard-earned tax dollars.

But this is a crisis in the larger sense because it is the result of careless policies by a president who has total disregard for fairness and the rule of law. Indeed, it is his free-for-all, open-door amnesty program that has turned our once-porous border into a wide open one. And while that system apparently is acceptable from the president’s vantage point from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, we Texans know it is anything but.

That’s why I have continued and will continue to prioritize this issue. Each time I visit McAllen, I learn more about this complex crisis and the challenges it poses. While this visit showed more of the same, I was encouraged to see the number of individuals being processed was lower than it was last summer.

But the truth is that a visit by me only goes so far. A visit from the president would send a message to the child traffickers and bad actors who send these unaccompanied minors through the desert and across our border alone in the dead of night.

That is why I am officially calling on President Obama to take this crisis seriously and visit the border himself. And then maybe he, like me, could take the opportunity to thank the men and women both state and federal who show up to work each day to keep us safe.

As always, I welcome your questions and comments on this issue. Thank you for taking the time to listen. May God bless you and your family, and as the song goes, God bless you, Texas, and keep you brave and strong.