

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address April 15, 2016  
“In Defense of a Flat Tax”

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Hello this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess.

We are all familiar with that feeling of frustration that comes over us as we begin to receive tax forms in the mail.

This is the time of the year we all dread—time to do our income taxes.

The current tax code is riddled with intricacies and complexities that are nearly impossible to comprehend.

Even former IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman admitted the he has to use a preparer for his taxes, because he finds the tax code too complex.

Look if the head of the IRS cannot comprehend it, what are the rest of us supposed to do? Certainly, we should not be subjecting the American people to that.

Fortunately, there is a better way.

Every Congress, I introduce H.R. 1040, the Flat Tax Act.

A flat tax is a simple notion: After a personal exemption, everyone is taxed at the same rate or proportion of income.

This would dramatically simplify the tax code by offering Americans the option to pay a single rate of tax instead of navigating the web of confusing tax provisions.

Through this bill, both individuals and businesses would be taxed at a flat rate of 17 percent. That is the rate that has historically shown to provide adequate revenue to run a government.

Additionally, this program would be optional. What does that mean? Well it means if you like your income tax you can keep your income tax, but if you want off the merry go round a flat tax is there for you.

A flatter, fairer tax structure would be simple and tax returns could be done on a single page.

Americans have far better things to do than spend hours on end understanding an incomprehensible system—a system that even the former IRS Commissioner found to be complex.

In 2013, the IRS' own Taxpayer Advocate Services reported that Americans collectively spent over 6 billion hours preparing their taxes. There is a better way. I want to give some of that time back.

As always, I appreciate your comments and questions on this issue or any other.

May God bless you and your family, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.