

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address June 26, 2015
“Town Hall recap”

Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. This Monday, I held a town hall at Lone Star High School in Frisco. Thank you to those of you who came out and participated. For those of you who were unable to join, I'd like to revisit some of the topics that were visited there.

A central topic of discussion was my recent “NO” vote on the president’s trade authority. This week, the Senate passed this package and sent it to be signed into law. I have voted for free trade in the past, and will likely vote for free trade in the future.

However, I have deep reservations about this particular deal. The statute language gives this administration too many opportunities to exploit this authority. And, the agreement has been crafted under too much secrecy.

Another constituent asked me why Medicare providers are not being reimbursed at fair rates. Hopefully, we have taken a huge step to solve this problem with the recent passage of the “doc fix.” This legislation eliminated the broken SGR formula and replaced it with a more quality driven system.

It is the largest entitlement reform in nearly 20 years. It puts an end to dramatic provider cuts and brings long term payment accuracy to providers. Ultimately, it will ensure that seniors have more access to the benefits they’ve earned.

Other attendees were concerned with our military readiness and funding.

America’s prosperity is a strategic asset across the globe. In Congress, we just authorized a package to fund our troops and ensure the vital funding our military requires. In this unique era of threat and uncertainty, this legislation met Congress’ most important constitutional obligation, “to provide for the common defense.”

Now, the president has threatened to veto our bill – but when it arrives at his desk, I feel he will re-consider.

Without question, this year's funding of our military servicemen and women ensure our forces are agile, efficient, and ready to face the threats of today.

As always, I welcome your questions and comments on these issues. Thank you for taking the time to listen. May God bless you and your family, and as always, may God bless Texas.