

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Address June 8, 2018

### Protecting American Borders

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Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Texans have a unique perspective on our crisis at our nation's borders. For many years, undocumented immigrants have crossed our southern border without significant consequence. In Texas, we know all too well that this crisis has severe ramifications for our state and our nation.

As your representative, securing America's borders has been one of my top priorities. For years, I have worked to strengthen our border and protect North Texans and Americans across the country.

There is no doubt that the previous Administration left our nation with a continuing crisis on our southern border. Since 2014, we have had concerns about unaccompanied minors crossing into our country. I have had conversations with both the Obama and Trump Administrations about their policies in place, and have been in regular communication about improvements in the care of minors placed into United States' custody. Moving forward, we will continue to have robust conversations about protecting these children while in custody and then after they are placed with a sponsor.

For too long, many of our calls for enforcement at the border went unanswered. However, with a new Administration has come new hope.

Since entering office, President Trump has been engaged in enforcing our immigration laws and securing our border. After President Trump's inauguration, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations made over 40 percent more arrests of undocumented people in 2017 than in the previous year.

The Trump Administration is committed to enforcing existing law. Only if Congress changes the law will that reality change. But I know this – we cannot rely on the promise of future security. Operational control of the border must come first.

Despite recent improvements, we know that permanent change will not happen overnight. The current crisis at the border has been worsening for almost a decade. After such damage, we know that this will take time to correct.

As Congress works to find a solution for the immigration problem, I remain focused on securing our nation and its borders. I will continue to provide updates as conversations continue.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, may God bless the people who protect us along the border, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.