

MICHAEL C. BURGESS, M.D.  
26TH DISTRICT, TEXAS



WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:  
2241 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-7772

[www.house.gov/burgess](http://www.house.gov/burgess)

**ENERGY AND COMMERCE**

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HEALTH  
VICE CHAIRMAN

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
ENERGY AND POWER

**JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE**

CONGRESSIONAL HEALTH CARE CAUCUS,  
CHAIRMAN

*Congress of the United States*  
*House of Representatives*  
*Washington, DC 20515-4326*

April 30, 2012

- DISTRICT OFFICES:
- 1660 SOUTH STEMMONS FREEWAY  
SUITE 230  
LEWISVILLE, TX 75067  
(972) 434-9700
  - 1100 CIRCLE DRIVE  
SUITE 200  
FORT WORTH, TX 76119  
(817) 531-8454

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Attorney General,

The General Services Administration (GSA) has failed to follow the guidelines regarding responsible spending by the executive branch. Like many Americans, I am dismayed that senior federal appointees would conduct themselves in such a reprehensible manner.

According to reports, the former Public Building Regional Commissioner, Jeff Neely, spent excessive amounts on a 2010 conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, for 300 federal employees. The conference itself featured several outlandish expenses including a clown, mind reader, and bicycle-building team exercise. In total, the conference is estimated to have cost \$823,000. This includes Mr. Neely's expenses on lavish suite-style hotel rooms during his scouting trips in 2009 to plan the conference. Such luxuries were unnecessary for the work Mr. Neely was doing and appear to be inappropriate spending practices by a federal employee. This behavior within the executive branch is unacceptable and cannot continue.

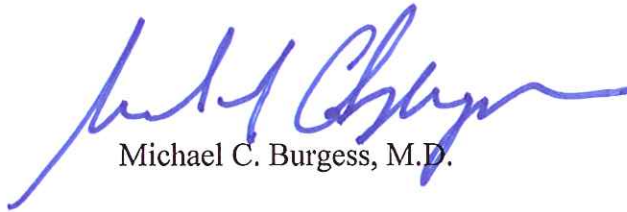
Still, I am concerned that this behavior is endemic in the current administration; not just pervasive within the GSA, but throughout the entire executive branch. In order to keep the public's trust, it is imperative that any and all improprieties be dealt with appropriately. I am pleased to see that twelve officials have been removed through termination, resignation, or administrative leave. Former administrator of the GSA, Martha Johnson, articulated the sentiment of many Congressmen and federal employees when she said she was "extremely aggrieved by the gall of a handful of people." Although I agree with Mrs. Johnson that the actions of these few individuals are indeed egregious, I am inclined to believe that this same odious spending is happening in other parts of the executive branch undetected. As a doctor, I can testify that treating these problems as they appear is not practical; we must address the cause

and not just the symptoms. While I urge you to continue with investigations of the GSA, I believe every executive agency must be scrutinized for similar misuses of power and funds.

Our government cannot sustain this sort of malfeasance by its own federal employees. The misuse of funds by Mr. Neely and other officials at the GSA—and the subsequent lack of retribution by Mrs. Johnson—underscore the failure of the executive branch to respect its monetary constraints. The executive branch must not be allowed to squander another \$800,000 on a vacation for government employees, disguised as a professional conference.

I urge you to aggressively prosecute any and all lawbreaking done by the GSA officials involved in these incidents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Burgess", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

MCB/jd