

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

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

January 20, 2012

Dear Friend:

Thank you for contacting me regarding H.R. 3261, the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA). I appreciate hearing from you on this important matter.

As you may know, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R- Texas) introduced H.R. 3261 on October 26, 2011. A summary of the bill states it would prevent the online selling of counterfeit goods in the U.S. and expand international protections for intellectual property by removing "rogue" websites containing copyright-infringing material from the internet. H.R. 3261 has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee for further consideration.

Over the past months, many constituents have expressed to me their concerns with SOPA, and I too share many of those same concerns. For these reasons, I am opposed to SOPA as it is currently written.

You may be interested to know that House Majority Leader Eric Cantor recently stated that there are major issues regarding SOPA that need to be addressed before the legislation can proceed. As a result, Chairman Smith announced that the Judiciary Committee will postpone consideration of SOPA until there is a consensus on a resolution. Furthermore, Chairman Smith stated he will bring together stakeholders from various groups to discuss solutions with respect to online piracy. It is my hope that these discussions will produce legislation that all stakeholders can agree upon. Online piracy is a serious threat, but it is important that this legislation adequately addresses that threat in a way that does not harm the internet or freedom of speech.

The discussions regarding SOPA are not over and you can be assured that I will continue to monitor any developments that occur. While I am not a member of the Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over H.R. 3261, you may be certain that I will keep your concerns and views in mind as this bill is being considered.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me. I appreciate having the opportunity to represent you in the U.S. House of Representatives. Please feel free to visit my website ([www.house.gov/burgess](http://www.house.gov/burgess)) or contact me with any future concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1660 SOUTH STEMMONS FREEWAY  
SUITE 230  
LEWISVILLE, TX 75067  
(972) 434-9700

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1100 CIRCLE DRIVE  
SUITE 200  
FORT WORTH, TX 76119  
(817) 531-8454