

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address November 20, 2015
“Protecting the United States At All Costs”

Hello this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess.

Many of you have contacted my office about the devastating attacks in Paris and expressed your concern about the admission of Syrian refugees into the United States of America.

I have mentioned it before. I cannot support the resettlement of Syrian refugees throughout the United States. And I stand firmly behind Governor Abbott’s decision to halt the admission of any Syrian refugees into Texas.

This week, officials were able to thwart deadly plans for what could have been potentially another devastating attack in Germany.

The Helsinki Commission, of which I am a member, held a hearing during which Assistant Secretary of State Anne Richard said that refugees were fleeing to Europe because they perceived those borders to be open. It cannot be perceived that American borders are open.

This is a problem that is not fading and in fact is only growing more and more dangerous.

Anyone who enters into this country must be properly vetted to ensure there is no risk of letting terrorist sympathizers slip through the cracks. Right now the United States lacks the necessary information about refugee applicants from Syria to complete this vetting process.

There is no single entity in charge of coordinating the refugee admittance process—the process for refugee applicants is split between at least five different federal agencies. This leads to lack of accountability and only increases vulnerability.

The National Defense Authorization Act was sent to the President's desk for signature this week and it requires that the President puts forward a comprehensive strategy to defeat ISIS.

This Administration must stop dragging its feet on this issue. Stop playing with the safety of the American people.

Until effective vetting and monitoring processes are established to ensure the safety of the American people, we must suspend the admission of refugees into the United States.

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

May God bless you and your family, may God bless America, and as always, may God bless Texas.