

Burgess Weekly Video Address April 15, 2015 “Tax Time”

Hello this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. It's time to file your income tax. And if you are similar to millions of Americans, the question is the same every April: Why can't this be simpler?

It doesn't have to be this way. I have introduced legislation in support of a flat tax at the beginning of each Congress in which I've served. This bill, H.R.1040, is known as the “Flat Tax Act.”

The idea of a flat tax as applied to income is not a new one. 42 countries around the world and 10 states have enacted some form of a flat tax with measurable success. Sadly, however, the federal government has yet to learn from the example.

At its core, a flat tax is a simple notion: Everyone is taxed at the same rate or proportion of income. This legislation would dramatically simplify the tax code by offering Americans the option to pay a single rate of tax instead of navigating the web of confusing tax provisions.

Under H.R.1040, both individuals and businesses could be taxed at a flat rate of 17 percent. This rate is historically proven to provide adequate revenue to run a government.

A flatter, fairer tax structure would be simple and tax returns would be done on a single page. The days of Americans spending more than 6 billion hours on their tax forms would end. A flat tax would also eliminate the Alternative Minimum Tax, capital gains taxes, the estate tax and the marriage penalty. These are gimmicks. They're unpopular, they're unfair, and they suppress economic growth. We can do better.

As always, I welcome your questions and comments on this issue. More information can be found on my website, at burgess.house.gov. Thank

you for taking the time to listen. May God bless you and your family,
and as always, may God bless Texas.