

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address May 19, 2017

The Importance of Oversight in Congress

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

This week we learned about a New York Times report that includes allegations about President Trump's interactions with former FBI Director James Comey.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has made efforts to obtain the memo Director Comey wrote about General Flynn's potential ties to Russia.

We still have **many** unanswered questions about this situation.

I agree with the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and with Speaker Ryan that Congress needs more information before it can make **any** judgement on the matter.

But – **if** Director Comey had concerns about executive branch interference in an ongoing FBI investigation, why did he not share them with Congress before now?

If Director Comey has written other memos about similarly sensitive situations – and there were several – such as the Clinton-Lynch runway meeting and his own role in the 2016 election. After all, he said he was “mildly nauseous” to think he might have affected the outcome of the 2016 election. Did he write a memo after that? And if he did, Congress should be able to review those, as well.

This week, the Justice Department appointed former FBI Director, Robert Mueller, to serve as a Special Counsel overseeing the investigation as to whether or not there were any ties between President Trump's campaign and Russian officials.

If this becomes a criminal matter, that is where it appropriately belongs. If it requires a constitutional or legislative remedy, that belongs in the United States Congress because oversight is a key function of Congress and our constitutional responsibility. We have the duty to ensure all parties play by the rules so that the safety and welfare of the American people is never compromised.

I have the privilege of serving on the Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, and I have always taken my role seriously – regardless of which political party is involved. I remain committed to holding government accountable to North Texans and to the American people.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family and as the song says, God bless you Texas.