

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2011 YEAR END ANNUAL REPORT

Working for North Texas



Office of Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

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“It is an honor to represent you in the United States House of Representatives, and I have done my best to advocate on behalf of your best interests. I have never forgotten that my service to our great nation is because of you and I appreciate the opportunity you have afforded me.”

2011 Highlights

- Responded to over 91,000 letters or inquiries from North Texans
- Cast 948 votes on the floor of the House of Representatives
- Participated in 74 hearings in the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Participated in 14 Joint Economic Committee hearings
- Participated in 2 Helsinki Commission hearings and chaired 1 hearing
- Introduced 20 bills and co-sponsored 164 bills
- Attended 643 events in the district
- Conducted 200 radio interviews and 62 TV interviews
- Mentioned in 2,098 newspaper articles or blogs

A Message From Congressman Burgess

As the first session of the 112th Congress comes to a close, many Americans are still facing tough times. Job creation continues to be a main concern as unemployment has remained above eight percent for thirty-four consecutive months. During the year I met with constituents across the district, many of whom are small business owners. I heard countless times about the uncertainty they are facing, and as a result the hesitation they have in hiring.

I ran a small business myself, and I believe the best thing the federal government can do is get out of the way of businesses and let them create jobs. Republicans in the House of Representatives have passed over twenty bills that have yet to come up for a vote in the Senate. Most of these bills focus on job creation, and relieving the regulatory burden. I believe we can do even more. As America continues to face hardships we must remind ourselves that a better road is ahead. With dedicated commitment, we can build this great county back and we can create a better future for our children and grandchildren.

It is an honor to represent you in the United States House of Representatives, and I have done my best to advocate on behalf of your best interests. I have never forgotten that my service to our great nation is because of you and I appreciate the opportunity you have afforded me.

Sincerely,



Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

Official Congressional Biography



Official 112th Congressional Photo

After spending nearly three decades practicing medicine in North Texas, Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D., first ran for Congress in 2002, and continues to serve the constituents of the 26th District.

Dr. Burgess serves on the prestigious House Energy and Commerce Committee and is the Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health. He is also a member of the Oversight and Investigations and Energy and Power subcommittees. In addition, Dr. Burgess is also a member of the bicameral Joint Economic Committee. In 2009 Dr. Burgess founded, and currently serves as Chairman of the Congressional Health Care Caucus.

Because of his medical background, Dr. Burgess has been a strong advocate for health care legislation aimed at reducing health care costs, improving choices, reforming liability laws to put the needs of patients first, and ensuring there are enough doctors in the public and private sector to care for America's patients and veterans. He has played an important role in bipartisan efforts to ensure the safety of food, drugs, and consumer products, and has introduced legislation to strengthen our ability to stop dangerous products from coming into the country.

As a Member of Congress representing one of the fastest growing areas of the country, transportation is also a top priority for Dr. Burgess. He successfully amended the 2005 Highway Bill to include development credits, design-build, and environmental streamlining. During his time on Capitol Hill, he also has worked to build, maintain, and improve the safety of our roads, bridges, air service, and transit in the North Texas region.

A fiscal conservative, Dr. Burgess believes Americans deserve a federal government that is more efficient, effective, less costly, and always transparent. He follows a strict adherence to the Constitution, and opposes unnecessary expansion of the federal government's control over Americans' personal freedoms. Instead, Dr. Burgess believes in giving people more control over their lives and their money.

During his time on Capitol Hill, Dr. Burgess has earned a reputation as a problem-solver who seeks sensible solutions to the challenges Americans face. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram has described him by saying, "... [Burgess] has energetically involved himself in Congress." The Dallas Morning News asserted, "...Burgess overall has the dedication, energy and breadth of ideas...His contribution is invaluable in Washington...Burgess exhibits the kind of leadership that...is missing too often in Washington today." National Journal magazine named Dr. Burgess an "Up-and-Comer" in a profile titled "Republicans To Watch If The GOP Takes Over."

While in the House of Representatives, Dr. Burgess has received several awards, including the 2008 House Legislator of the Year from the Multiple Sclerosis Society; 2005 Legislator of the Year by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners; the Guardian of Small Business award by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); the Spirit of Enterprise award by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and the Taxpayer Hero award from the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste; among others.

Today, Dr. Burgess represents the majority of Denton County, Cooke County, and parts of suburban Dallas and Fort Worth. He was raised in Denton, and attended The Selwyn School, graduating in 1968 as valedictorian. Dr. Burgess graduated with both an undergraduate and a master's degree from North Texas State University, now the University of North Texas. He received his M.D. from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, and completed his residency programs at Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

Dr. Burgess also received a master's degree in Medical Management from the University of Texas at Dallas, and in May of 2009 was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Public Service from the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center. Dr. Burgess has been married to his wife, Laura, for over 35 years. They have three children and a grandson.

Committee Assignments

I am a member of the [House Energy and Commerce Committee](#), the oldest legislative standing committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, and considered to be one of the most powerful committees as well. This committee has a wide-range of jurisdiction, presiding over all matters relating to telecommunications, consumer protection, food and drug safety, public health, air quality and environmental health, the supply and delivery of energy, and interstate and foreign commerce in general. This jurisdiction extends over five cabinet-level departments: U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency - and many independent agencies, such as the Federal Trade Commission, Food and Drug Administration, Federal Communications Commission, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

- **Vice Chairman, Subcommittee on Health.** Jurisdiction for this subcommittee includes: public health and quarantine, hospital construction, mental health and research, biomedical programs and health protection in general, including public and private health insurance, food and drugs, and drug abuse.
- **Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.** Jurisdiction for this subcommittee includes: responsibility for oversight of agencies, departments, and programs within the jurisdiction of the full committee, and for conducting investigations within such jurisdiction.
- **Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Power.** Jurisdiction for this subcommittee includes: general national energy policy, fossil energy, renewable energy resources and synthetic fuels, energy conservation, energy information, energy regulation and utilization, utility issues and regulation of nuclear facilities, interstate energy compacts, nuclear energy, The Clean Air Act and air emissions, and all laws, programs, and government activities affecting such matters.

In addition, I am member of the bipartisan, bicameral [Joint Economic Committee](#) and a member of the [Helsinki Commission](#).

Statement of Principles that Guide Legislative Decisions

I have a strong moral philosophy that guides my life and informs the manner in which I represent the State of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives. Every vote I cast in Congress starts with you, the people of the 26th District of Texas. I was sent by the people of our district to Washington not to promote any personal agenda, but to bring your voice to our nation's capital. Before each vote I ask myself, "is the measure before us necessary, good for our district and our state, is this something my neighbors want, and is it allowed under the Constitution?" I always review your phone calls, emails, and letters before a vote to ensure that I continue to be in touch with your thoughts on the issues before Congress.

Our federal government was meant to protect the unalienable rights articulated in the Declaration of Independence. Thus, I will only support legislation that protects your constitutional rights and liberties and is allowed under the powers given to Congress under the Constitution. I also oppose legislation that is redundant, unnecessarily expands government control over our freedom, or increases the role of the federal government in your life.

In addition, I am committed to protecting your pocketbook. I will not support legislation that hurts the economy, slows job growth, raises taxes, or burdens the taxpayers of today or tomorrow with greater debt. Taxpayers deserve a federal government that is more efficient, less costly, and always transparent.

I am fiscally and socially conservative, and I believe that the federal government must be responsible to the people – not the other way around. Whether through my support for a balanced budget that pays down our national debt, ensuring a strong national defense, or giving people more control over their lives and their money, I am committed to shrinking the size of government to only what is necessary to assure your freedom and protect your rights.

Statement of Constituent Principles

One of the most important things I do as your U.S. Representative is help you gain access to and information about the federal government. Although I cannot override the decisions made by a federal agency, I can often intervene on a constituent's behalf to answer questions, find solutions, or just cut through the red tape.

- **How May I Help?** – When a federal agency has failed to respond in a timely manner to a request for assistance or has otherwise been unwilling to provide a level of relief that agency regulations appear to support, a [Congressional Inquiry](#) may be utilized to seek a response. While a favorable reply cannot always be promised, every review and consideration will be afforded based on the merits of the agency concern to seek either a resolution or an explanation of the limiting legal guidelines the agency must follow in relation to your concern.
- **Review** – Together we will clarify the issue, identify your progress within the inquiry process, and develop a strategy to assist you in the most efficient pursuit of your goal. My office will serve as a mediator to ensure that your request is provided for full review and consideration by the appropriate officials.
- **Closure** – We will pursue an answer to either provide a satisfactory resolution to your concern or a clear explanation of the limiting legal guidelines that prevent the agency from providing the desired answer.
- **Empower** – We will seek to identify resources that may be helpful in further supporting and documenting your claim so you can maximize your appeal rights and other avenues that may be available for further assistance. Through this process I will seek to provide excellence in service of the constituent needs related to the agencies of the government.

“Our federal government was meant to protect the unalienable rights articulated in the Declaration of Independence. Thus, I will only support legislation that protects your constitutional rights and liberties and is allowed under the powers given to Congress under the Constitution.”

Statement of Principles for Ethical Conduct

As a Member of Congress, I have an open door policy for any constituent of the 26th District of Texas to meet with me or my staff in my two [Texas offices](#) or my [Washington, D.C. office](#). Other persons or groups representing communities, large or small businesses or themselves with concerns impacting the 26th District are welcome to [request a meeting with me](#) and my staff as well. Representing the second largest congressional district by population in the state and the eleventh largest congressional district by population in the nation, I do my very best to try and schedule as many meetings and events as possible in a timely fashion.

Such meetings or event requests are based upon need and availability and no other outside influences are taken into consideration. I take my job as a representative to the people of the 26th District very seriously, and I believe that when I am called upon to make a decision, the only voices that I look to for input are those residing within the borders of the district I represent.

The people of the 26th District have entrusted me with the responsibility of this office and I am honored to have that trust. An important part of this role is transparency. As the steward of this congressional office, it is my fiduciary duty to ensure that I conduct my personal dealings and the business of this office both ethically and with dignity. Each year I provide my [Financial Disclosure](#) to the U.S. House of Representatives as required. Additionally, each quarter the U.S. House of Representatives produces a [Statement of Disbursements](#) which provide specific information concerning the expenses and disbursements for each office. I believe it is important to be accountable and provide transparency in the dealings of our elected officials and government offices.

Snapshot of Constituent Services

- Number of cases my office opened with various federal agencies:
 - Social Security and Medicare - 102
 - Veterans Affairs - 147
 - Military - 48
 - Citizenship and Immigration Services - 50
 - Housing - 63
 - Various other agencies - 193
- Tours requested on behalf of constituents:
 - White House - 1,599 people
 - U.S. Capitol - 1,508 people

You can visit my website burgess.house.gov for more information on constituent services.

Constituent Services

One of the most important things I do as your U.S. Representative is help you gain access to and information about the federal government. Although I cannot override the decisions made by a federal agency, I can often intervene on a person's behalf to answer questions, find solutions, or just cut through the red tape.

Throughout 2011, more than 561 constituents from the district received assistance in the form of a congressional inquiry to address an issue or concern with a federal agency. Some of the more frequent topics I assisted with included benefits from the Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, and mortgage issues. In addition, my office assisted 1,524 constituents with various non legislative issues. Denton County had the largest amount of constituent inquires, followed by Tarrant County and Cooke County.

My office assists constituents with requesting tours of various federal buildings. During 2011, over 3,407 people received a tour from a request that was made through my office. In addition, my office assisted in having 93 flags flown over the United States Capitol. In 2011, my Washington, D.C and Texas offices hosted 29 interns from such schools as the University of North Texas, Texas Wesleyan University, Texas Women's University, and other educational institutions in Texas.

I want to serve constituents in any way I can. Whether you need help with a federal agency, would like a tour of the United States Capitol or White House, or are considering applying to a service academy.

Correspondence with North Texans

It is a chief priority of mine that the citizens of Texas' 26th Congressional District send me their opinions, ideas, suggestions, and comments regarding the issues they find most important.

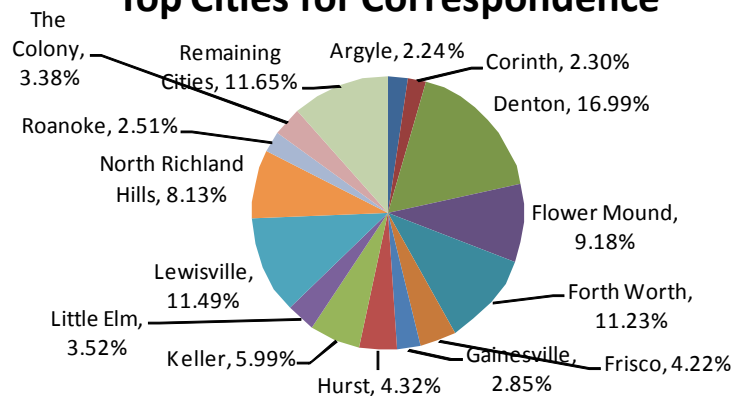
In 2011, over 91,000 North Texans contacted me through email, letters, phone calls, and faxes, to express their concerns and communicate their opinions over various topics. Health care was by far the most common topic of communication with over 12,000 pieces of correspondence received. This issue was followed by over 8,500 people expressing their concerns about the national debt and spending, and over 5,300 pieces of mail regarding immigration.

Additionally, in May of 2011, I wrote to 10,531 North Texas high school graduates to congratulate them upon obtaining their high school diploma.

I hope you'll take the time to let me know how you feel about issues you find most important.

To find the best means to contact me visit burgess.house.gov/Contact

Top Cities for Correspondence



Events and Meetings



Dr. Burgess speaking during The Colony Town Hall Meeting

This past year I traveled over 4,500 miles in the district where I held or attended 643 events, including 13 Chamber of Commerce meetings, 311 health care related meetings and events, and 161 meetings that covered everything from transportation, the economy, energy, and education. I met with North Texans from cities such as Flower Mound, Fort Worth, Keller, Corinth, Argyle, and Hurst.

Over the course of the year I held seven [town hall meetings](#) across North Texas: Keller, The Colony, Denton, Trophy Club, Frisco, Lewisville, and Hurst. In addition I also held four telephone town halls. During 2011, I also held four summits that brought leaders from the local, state and federal levels together to address key issues facing North Texans.

[Emergency Preparedness Summit](#) - Held on April 16th at Byron Nelson High School in Trophy Club. The keynote speaker was Larry Mowry, Chief Meteorologist for CBS 11. The event featured two panels of experts from local, state, and federal organizations that provided information on weather and disaster preparedness. In addition, there was a fair with booths and outdoor exhibits where weather and disaster specific organizations presented and distributed pertinent consumer information.

[Energy Efficiency Summit](#) - Held on July 9th at the University of North Texas Discovery Park in Denton. The keynote speaker was R. James Woolsey, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. The summit featured two panels. The first panel focused on ways to save energy in design and construction of buildings and houses, and the second panel discussed energy efficiency and conservation for mobility. There was also a fair with booths providing energy-related information and resources.



Dr. Burgess speaking at the Energy Efficiency Summit

[Economic Development Summit](#) - Held on October 21st at Texas Wesleyan University, Lou's Place Pavilion, in Fort Worth. The keynote speaker was Richard Fisher, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. The event highlighted areas where the community could spur economic growth, served as a facilitating mechanism for interested parties to discuss available resources, showcased current and potential projects, identified potential funding opportunities, and highlighted the needs of the community.

[Transportation Summit](#) - Held on November 28th at the Hurst Conference Center in Hurst. Speakers included: Texas State Representative Larry Phillips, Chairman of the Texas House of Representatives Transportation Committee; Phil Wilson, Executive Director of the Texas Department of Transportation; and Michael Morris, Transportation Director of the North Central Texas Council of Government (NCTCOG). Representative John Mica (FL-07), Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, addressed the group by video. The summit included informative presentations and panel discussions by federal, state and local officials regarding the Federal Highway Act Reauthorization. Special focus was given to the transportation issues affecting North Texas.

Want to know when the next town hall meeting or summit is being held?

Sign up for my e-newsletter on my website: burgess.house.gov

Legislative Work and Accomplishments

Snapshot of Legislative Accomplishments

- Participated in 74 hearings in the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Participated in 14 Joint Economic Committee hearings
- Participated in 24 markups in the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Participated in 2 Helsinki Commission hearings and chaired 1 hearing
- Cast 948 votes, 98.9% vote attendance record
- Introduced 20 bills
- Co-sponsored 164 bills



In 2011, I introduced 20 bills dealing with legislative issues including health care, taxes, energy, the economy, and veterans. I amended bills where I saw improvements could be made, and have supported legislation introduced by other members when deserved.

In addition, I wrote several letters calling for investigations and demanding explanations, and cast 948 votes, which is a 98.9% vote attendance record. Throughout all of this, I always kept in mind that I represent and work for the people of North Texas.

Specific Legislative Accomplishments

- On February 10, 2011, I [sent a letter to Donald Berwick, M.D.](#), Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that was signed by eighty-eight other Members of Congress. The letter asked that CMS consider delaying the enforcement of new regulations that laboratory requisition forms be signed by the ordering physician. The letter was only live for less than sixty hours, and garnered tremendous House support and the Senate companion had thirty-four signatures. In response, CMS announced that it would not be putting the rule into effect and would not be enforcing it, instructing Medicare contractors of their intention to use a future regulatory pathway to rescind the rule. On June 29, 2011 [CMS published a separate rule](#) on the physician signature policy which rescinds the 2011 Final Rule policy and reinstates the prior policy.
- In August 2010, Congress passed a law that gave \$10 billion to states for education. Included in this law was a provision inserted by Rep. Lloyd Doggett (TX-25) [that singled out Texas](#), and placed restrictions on the receipt of this funding that no other state was required to fulfill. Specifically, the Governor of Texas would be required to make promises about the level of funding the state would make for education through 2013. However, the Texas Constitution prohibits the governor from making binding spending promises into the future. Because of its unconstitutional nature, unequal treatment for Texas from all the other states, and because a Texan was causing Texas to be treated differently than every other state, I decided to make sure this onerous amendment was repealed. I, along with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas), introduced companion legislation, H.R. 532, in the 112th Congress to defeat the Doggett legislation. After several months of hard work and negotiating, the language was included as an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution. As a result, [Texas schools received the \\$830 million in funding](#) that they never should have been deprived in the first place.
- In the Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Water Appropriations bill I [offered an amendment](#) to delay enforcement of the 2007 EISA language banning the 100 watt lightbulb from being sold. The amendment was accepted on voice vote, after a similar bill, repealing the language outright, failed on suspension earlier in the week. It was later included in the December 2011 omnibus that passed the House and Senate.

- On June 28, 2011, I [sent a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\) Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius](#). The letter expressed my concern about the “mystery caller program” proposed by HHS, whereby non-beneficiary callers will pose as potential patients to medical offices in order to collect data on delays, routine appointment times, and acceptance of beneficiaries with varying forms of insurance. I believed the program would indicate problems that have already been well-identified, such as the shortage of physicians. The letter asked that the program be suspended and rethought. That same day, [HHS announced its’ intention to suspend the program](#).
- In July 2011, I authored a letter to the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee that requested hearings on agency budgets, existing agency funds, and agency performance. This letter resulted in the holding of two budget hearings. The memo also requested that not just agency leadership come to the hearing, but also career officials. At the hearing examining the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the chief financial officer of the EPA was present and was among the officials questioned. Related to this, I have assembled a group of Lean Six Sigma experts to examine agency testimony, to work to review the performance of agencies and their budgets, and how agencies could operate more efficiently. This is an ongoing project that will not only help reform agency spending, but also how agencies and committees communicate.

Sponsored Legislation

In 2011 I sponsored twenty legislative bills. Below are just a few and additional information about the legislation.

- [H.R.360](#): To amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for participation in the exchange of the president, vice-president, Members of Congress, political appointees, and congressional staff.
- [H.R.532](#): To repeal the requirement that the Secretary of Education deny Texas and its local educational agencies (LEAs) funds from the Education Jobs Fund until the state assures the secretary otherwise.
- [H.R.610](#): To authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bonds to aid in the funding of Alzheimer's research in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- [H.R.852](#): To authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue United States War Bonds to aid in the funding of the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and other military operations abroad identified by the Secretary of Defense (DOD) as being part of the international conflicts against terrorism.
- [H.R.1040](#): To amend the Internal Revenue Code to authorize an individual or a person engaged in business activity to make an irrevocable election to be subject to a flat tax (in lieu of the existing tax provisions) of 19% for the first two years after an election is made, and 17% thereafter.
- [H.R.3290](#): To provide for the issuance of a veterans health care stamp.

Caucus Membership

I have chosen to become a member of the following congressional caucuses as they support the vital issues our nation currently faces.

- Bi-cameral Congressional Alzheimer’s Taskforce
- Congressional Health Care Caucus, Founder and Chairman
- Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus
- Congressional Flat Tax Caucus, Chairman
- Congressional Motorcycle Safety Caucus, Co-Chair
- Congressional Mental Health Caucus
- Congressional Taiwan Caucus
- Community Health Center Caucus
- Cystic Fibrosis Caucus
- General Aviation Caucus
- Immigration Reform Caucus
- Multiple Sclerosis, Co-Chair
- Osteoporosis Caucus, Co-Chair
- Pro-Life Caucus
- Republican Doctors Caucus
- Republican Study Committee

Sponsored Legislation that has Advanced

- [H.R.570](#): To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the inclusion of dental health facilities in the National Health Security Strategy for purposes of preparedness during public health emergencies.
 - On February 18, 2011 the Subcommittee on Health marked up the bill and reported the bill by voice vote. On February 15, 2011 the full committee marked up the bill and reported it also by a voice vote. The House considered H.R. 570 on March 8, 2011 where it passed with a vote of 401 to 12. It was later included in the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2011.
- [H.R.1214](#): To amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to repeal mandatory funding for school-based health center construction.
 - Marked up in the Subcommittee on Health on March 31, 2011 and it was reported favorability with a vote of 14 to 11. H.R. 1214 was marked up by the full committee on April 5, 2011. There were four amendments offered against it – each failed. The legislation was reported out of the Energy and Commerce Committee favorably with a vote of 27 to 15. This legislation was brought to the floor on May 3, 2011 and was debated and on May 4, 2011 it passed the whole House with a vote of 235 to 191.

Amendments Offered on House Floor

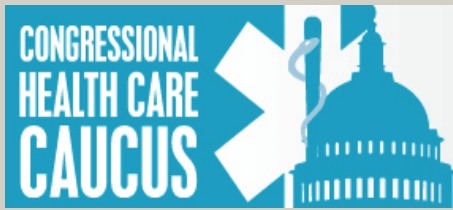
- [H.AMDT.161 to H.R.1](#): An amendment to prohibit the use of funds to pay the salary of any officer or employee of the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight in the Department of Health and Human Services. Accepted 239 to 182.
- [H.AMDT.171 to H.R.1](#): An amendment to prohibit the use of funds to enforce additional requirements on the state of Texas as they relate to spending levels for elementary and secondary education. Accepted 235 to 187.
- [H.AMDT.678 to H.R.2354](#): Amendment prohibit the Department of Energy from enforcing provisions in the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act which prevent the sale of 100 watt incandescent light bulbs.

Letters Sent to Top Government Officials

In 2011 I sent 110 letters to local, state, and federal government officials. Below are just a few of the letters sent.

- On January 31, 2011, I sent a letter [to President Barack Obama](#) concerning his statements made at the recent State of the Union address about tax reform. I was pleased to hear that he was embracing fundamental tax reform to simplify filing for taxpayers. The letter detailed the Flat Tax legislation that I have introduced as an example of the type of tax reform that could benefit Americans. Finally, I offered my assistance to President Obama and his administration in achieving fundamental tax reform.
- On February 11, 2011, I sent a letter [to Health and Human Services Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius](#), citing the ruling of Judge Vinson who declared that the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was unconstitutional and inquired how the department planned to proceed in its implementation of the act.
- On August 4, 2011, I sent a letter [to Speaker John Boehner and House Transportation Committee Chairman John Mica](#) expressing my regret that 4000 FAA workers were temporarily furloughed as a result of Congress' inability to pass an FAA reauthorization extension.
- On September 16, 2011, I sent a letter [to Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chairman Cliff Stearns](#) requesting that the Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu, as well as Jacob Lew, and Carol Browner, be brought before the committee to testify on Solyndra.

Congressional Health Care Caucus



In 2009, I founded, and currently serve as the Chairman of the Congressional Health Care Caucus. The Health Care Caucus is committed to advancing reforms that reduce costs, increase patient control, expand choice, and promote cures.

The Congressional Health Care Caucus strives to serve as a resource for both members and staff. In 2011 the Caucus held 24 events, and increased its outreach by hosting several member education classes with the Republican Conference as well as hosting Leadership Hour. Both of these served as a platform to promote patient-centered and consumer driven ideas.

In addition, the Caucus hosted numerous policy forums which focus on specific subsets of policy ranging from Medicare Advantage, accountable care organizations, the effects of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act one year later, and Republican alternatives to addressing the uninsured population.

The Caucus also hosted off the record member briefings which pinpoint specific policy areas which members are interested in or areas they have requested more information about. At the beginning of this year, the Caucus focused on bringing in experts to discuss health care with new members as well as help them the intricacies involved with this policy.

While the majority of the Caucus' activity occurred in Washington, D.C., the Caucus did hold several events in Texas with business owners and physicians. In addition, the Caucus hosted business roundtables with local leaders to discuss their questions and concerns regarding the changes they will face under the law. These events highlighted the complexity of the law and the detrimental side effects many provisions of the law can have.

Thought Leaders Series

The Congressional Health Care Caucus extended an invitation to all presidential candidates to come and discuss health care. These forums are an arena to discuss health care policy and provide an open dialogue between the candidate and those in attendance as well as watching online. Speakers in 2011 include:

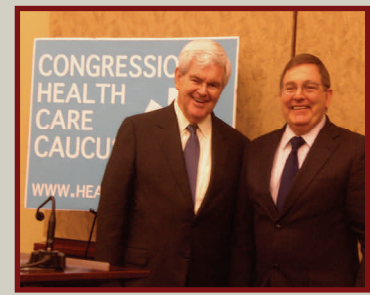
- Texas Governor Rick Perry
- Herman Cain
- Congressman Ron Paul, M.D. (TX-14)
- Former Speaker Newt Gingrich
- Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour



Congressman Ron Paul, M.D. speaks to the Health Care Caucus on November 16, 2011.



Texas Governor Rick Perry speaks to the Health Care Caucus on December 7, 2011.



Former Speaker Newt Gingrich speaks to the Health Care Caucus on March 31, 2011.

Connect with the Congressional Health Care Caucus:

health.burgess.house.gov • twitter.com/HealthCaucus • facebook.com/healthcaucus

Media Communications

Snapshot of Media Communications

- Mentioned in 2,098 newspaper articles or blogs
 - 499 on health care
 - 146 on economy, jobs and spending
 - 541 on energy and the environment
 - 77 on education
- 9 columns, op-eds, and letters to the editor
- 200 radio interviews
 - 83 local stations
 - 117 nationally syndicated shows
- 62 television interviews
 - 14 on local stations
 - 20 on Fox Business
 - 10 on Fox News
 - 4 on MSNBC
 - 4 on CNBC
 - 3 on CNN
- 99 press releases
- 54 e-newsletters
- 135 YouTube videos posted

Articles Mentioning Congressman Burgess

In 2011 there were 2,098 articles and blogs mentioning my name and the work I did in Washington and Texas. Below are just a few of the mentions.

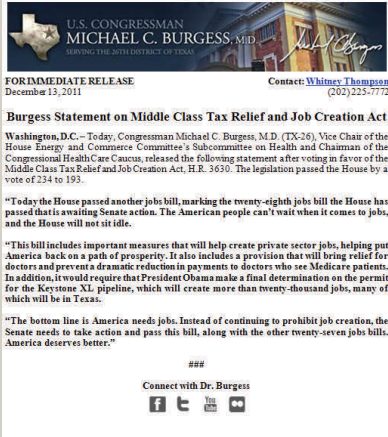
- [Michael Burgess: CBO Numbers on Health Care Are Pure Fantasy](#), CNBC, January 6, 2011
- [Proud of Burgess](#), *Denton Record Chronicle*, February 4, 2011
- [Republican says HHS should not enforce Obama healthcare law](#), *The Hill*, February 14, 2011
- [HOW DID MICHAEL BURGESS DO IT?](#), *Quorum Report*, February 19, 2011
- [Physicians to get relief from Medicare lab paperwork rule](#), *American Medical News*, February 28, 2011
- [Rep. Burgess: Obamacare Designed to Fail, Force Socialized Medicine](#), *Newsmax*, March 23, 2011
- [\\$830M in federal education aid on its way to Texas](#), *Houston Chronicle*, April 22, 2011
- [Rep. Burgess says supercommittee should save money by cutting healthcare law](#), *The Hill*, September 7, 2011
- [Now hiring: Accountant to investigate Solyndra](#), *Politico*, September 23, 2011
- [Fate of New Entitlement Program Under Health Care Law in Doubt](#), Fox News, October 1, 2011
- [Congressman: Regulators risk making a 'debacle' out of bipartisan health law provision](#), *The Hill*, October 19, 2011
- [Burgess Highlights State-Based Solutions](#), *National Journal*, October 24, 2011
- [Congressman recognizes local veterans](#), *The Cross Timbers Gazette*, November 9, 2011
- [No congressional snooze on Obamacare](#), *Forth Worth Star-Telegram*, November 17, 2011
- [Rep. Burgess on light bulbs: When choices are limited 'people are going to start paying attention'](#), *The Daily Caller*, December 23, 2011

Columns and Letters to the Editor Authored

- [Texas deserves an equal chance](#), *The Dallas Morning News*, February 17, 2011
- [Have we 'fixed' U.S. healthcare?](#), *The Hill*, March 23, 2011
- [Law Hurts Both Doctors, Patients](#), *Roll Call*, March 25, 2011
- [Delay ACA Implementation Until High Court Rules To Save Money](#), *Inside Health Policy*, August 18, 2011
- [Supercommittee needs to put Obamacare on table](#), *The Washington Times*, September 30, 2011
- [Hospital leaders must join fight against antibiotic resistance](#), *Modern Healthcare*, October 10, 2011
- [Accountable Care Organizations — a debacle of enormous proportions](#), *The Hill*, October 18, 2011
- [Current Tax Code Is Confusing](#), *U.S. News*, November 1, 2011
- [A quiet revolution — and a helping hand](#), *The Hill*, November 17, 2011

Press Releases

In 2011, my office sent out 99 press releases, below are a few that were sent.



- [Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D., Sworn into 112th Congress](#), January 5, 2011
- [Burgess Votes To Repeal Health Care Law](#), January 19, 2011
- [Burgess Reappointed to Joint Economic Committee](#), January 28, 2011
- [Burgess Announces Service Academy Nominees](#), February 19, 2011
- [Burgess Votes on Continuing Resolution](#), February 19, 2011
- [Burgess Reintroduces Legislation to End Unnecessary Health Care Lawsuits](#), March 3, 2011
- [Burgess Statement on One Year Anniversary of the Health Care Law](#), March 23, 2011
- [House Votes on Troop Funding Legislation](#), April 7, 2011
- [Burgess Statement on Bipartisan Agreement That Cuts Spending And Keeps The Government Open](#), April 9, 2011
- [Hutchison and Burgess: Emergency Education Funding Delivered to Texas](#), April 22, 2011
- [Burgess Legislation Passes House and Repeals Mandatory Funding](#), May 4, 2011
- [Congress Successfully Pushes CMS to Review and Rescind Burdensome Requirement](#), June 30, 2011
- [Burgess Votes Yes on Budget Control Act of 2011](#), August 1, 2011
- [Burgess Secures \\$100 Million in Solyndra Scandal Funding](#), September 23, 2011
- [Burgess Statement on the Health Care Law Going to the Supreme Court](#), September 29, 2011
- [Burgess Introduces Health Care Legislation that will Protect Jobs and Foster Innovation for Patients](#), October 15, 2011
- [Burgess Stamp Bill Would Raise Additional Funds for Veterans Health Care Services](#), November 7, 2011
- [Congressman Burgess Honors Local Veterans](#), November 10, 2011
- [Burgess Statement on the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction](#), November 21, 2011
- [Burgess Statement on the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act](#), December 13, 2011
- [Vacation Can Wait, The American People Can't](#), December 19, 2011

Video of Floor Speeches

- [The MIND Act](#), February 8, 2011
- [Human Genome Project](#), February 28, 2011
- [The Health Care Law - Almost a Year Later](#), March 8, 2011
- [Health Care and The People's Right to Know](#), March 14, 2011
- [H.R. 1217 -- To repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund](#), April 13, 2011
- [Taxes, Penalties and Fees in PPACA](#), May 10, 2011
- [Affordable Care Act Destroys Patient Access](#), July 6, 2011
- [The American People Have the Right to Choose](#), July 14, 2011
- [Create, Innovate, and Lead](#), July 18, 2011
- [Select Committee Needs to Put Affordable Care Act on the Table](#), September 7, 2011
- [Ponzi Scheme of the First Order - The CLASS Act](#), October 24, 2011
- [Physicians, Patients, and the American People Deserve Better](#), December 19, 2011

Video of Committee Hearings



- [The Consequences of Obamacare](#), March 1, 2011
- [Waste, Fraud, and Abuse: A Continuing Threat to Medicare and Medicaid](#), March 2, 2011
- [Questioning Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on PPACA](#), March 3, 2011
- [The Need to Move Beyond the SGR](#), May 5, 2011
- [PPACA's Effects on Maintaining Health Coverage and Jobs](#), June 2, 2011
- [The Views of the Administration on Regulatory Reform](#), June 3, 2011
- [IPAB - The Controversial Consequences for Medicare and Seniors](#), July 13, 2011
- [FDA Medical Device Regulation-Impact on Patients, Innovation and Jobs](#), July 20, 2011
- [Questioning the Solyndra executives](#), September 23, 2011
- [Questioning Chairman Ben Bernanke](#), October 4, 2011
- [An Unsustainable Program and the Consequences for the Nation's Deficit](#), October 26, 2011
- [Questioning Secretary Chu about Solyndra](#), November 17, 2011

Weekly Video Address

- [The Continuing Resolution and the HHS Budget](#), March 4, 2011
- [The Right to Know](#), March 18, 2011
- [President Obama's Address on International Efforts in Libya](#), April 1, 2011
- [The Death of Osama bin Laden](#), May 6, 2011
- [Hidden Taxes in the Health Care Law](#), May 13, 2011
- [The Future of Medicare and Emergency Preparedness](#), May 27, 2011
- [Regulatory Reform and Putting Americans Back to Work](#), June 17, 2011
- [Putting America's Fiscal Future Back on Track](#), July 8, 2011
- [The Independent Payment Advisory Board](#), July 15, 2011
- [Cut, Cap, and Balance](#), July 22, 2011
- [My Vote on the Boehner Agreement](#), July 28, 2011
- [We Can Do Better](#), September 9, 2011
- [President Obama's Jobs Proposal](#), September 16, 2011
- [Jobs and Our Economy](#), October 7, 2011
- [Economic Uncertainty in America](#), October 15, 2011
- [We Need Action, Not Rhetoric](#), October 28, 2011
- [The Solyndra Failure: Views from DOE Secretary Chu](#), November 18, 2011
- [Supreme Court to Decide Constitutionality of Health Care Law](#), November 26, 2011
- [The Failure of the Select Committee](#), December 2, 2011
- [The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act](#), December 16, 2011
- [As 2011 Comes to an End, We Must Look to the Future](#), December 23, 2011



Dr. Burgess prepares to record his weekly video address.

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Video of Television Interviews



- The debt ceiling debate on [MSNBC's The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell](#), January 3, 2011
- Repealing the health care law on [CBS News' Washington Unplugged](#), January 19, 2011
- Burgess amendment to provide \$830 million to [Texas education on Fox 4 Dallas](#), February 21, 2011
- Fracking on [energyNOW!](#), March 6, 2011
- Japan and the future of nuclear energy on [CNBC's Squawk Box](#), March 18, 2011
- The BULB Act on [Fox News' Your World with Neil Cavuto](#), July 11, 2011

- Cut, Cap, and Balance, on [Fox News' Happening Now](#), July 18, 2011
- Medicaid and Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) Funding on [CNN](#), July 29, 2011
- The debt ceiling on [MSNBC](#), July 30, 2011
- The White House's involvement in the Solyndra loan on [Fox Business' Scoreboard](#), September 15, 2011
- Looking at President Obama's deficit reduction and jobs proposals on [Fox Business' Freedom Watch with Judge Andrew Napolitano](#), September 19, 2011
- Possible government shutdown on [Fox Business' Cavuto](#), September 23, 2011
- Solyndra and crime scene tape on [Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight](#), September 28, 2011
- Solyndra and other DOW funding on [Fox News' Your World with Neil Cavuto](#), September 28, 2011
- Unemployment in America on [Fox Business' Freedom Watch with Judge Andrew Napolitano](#), October 7, 2011
- Treasury officials testimony at Solyndra hearing on [Fox Business' Scoreboard](#), October 14, 2011
- [Subpoenaing the White House on Fox Business' Cavuto](#), October 31, 2011
- The Solyndra failure, views from DOE Secretary Chu on [Fox Business' Scoreboard](#), November 17, 2011
- Burgess Statement on the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction on [Fox Business' Scoreboard](#), November 23, 2011
- Local transportation issues on [CBS 11 Dallas](#), November 28, 2011
- Secretary Chu and the Failure of Solyndra on [Fox News' Justice with Judge Jeanine Pirro](#), November 26, 2011
- 2012 defense appropriations on [Fox Business' Freedom Watch with Judge Andrew Napolitano](#), December 2, 2011
- Solyndra and the payroll tax debate on [Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight](#), December 6, 2011



- A two month patch does not provide stability on [Fox Business' Cavuto](#), December 19, 2011
- Can Congress reach a deal on the payroll debate in time on [CNN's OutFront with Erin Burnett](#), December 20, 2011
- Extending the payroll tax cut on [CNN's OutFront with Erin Burnett](#), December 20, 2011
- The House will take up the payroll tax deal on [Fox Business' Power and Money](#), December 22, 2011

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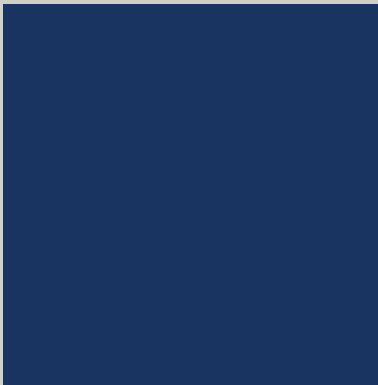
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