

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address August 14, 2014 “Living Donor Protection Act”

Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. A few weeks ago, I introduced legislation with Congressman Gerry Nadler that would promote organ donation and protect the rights of living organ donors.

Each year, thousands of living Americans donate their kidneys livers and other organs to save the lives of family members, friends and even complete strangers. Organ donation is a positive thing. It cuts health care costs by as much as two-thirds because it reduces the need for dialysis and other expensive treatments.

But even when people take this brave step to donate and organ, many still face discrimination when they try to take medical leave or buy insurance. Our legislation would work to reverse this.

We should not be putting roadblocks in the way of living organ donation. Instead, Congress should encourage more people to become living donors and protect their right to receive insurance and leave. They may not be sick themselves, but they are still undergoing invasive surgery to save a life. That is already a heroic thing to do, and we should not be making it more difficult than it already is.

I appreciate the support we've received from advocacy groups on this issue. I also appreciate the hard work of Congressman Nadler.

It is my hope that legislation like this will encourage more living donors and save more lives.

As always, I appreciate your questions and comments on this issue. Thank you for taking the time to listen. May God bless you and your family, and as always, may God bless Texas.