

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address August 21, 2014
“MD CARE Act”

Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. This week, I'd like to talk to you about important legislation that has positively impacted patients with muscular dystrophy for the last 13 years.

The Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research and Education Act, also known as the MD CARE Act, was enacted in 2001 and reauthorized in 2008. This year, we are adding amendments to further update and improve upon this already successful legislation.

The MD Care Act is responsible for enhancing research efforts to focus on cardiac, pulmonary and other systems of importance to muscular dystrophy patients. It updates existing care standards and fills gaps to focus on how to properly care for these patients. It intensifies existing tracking of various forms of muscular dystrophy and ensures this data informs the research agenda. Finally, it ensures that when potential therapies are submitted for evaluation, they are quickly reviewed.

This is a true success story. In patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy alone, the MD CARE Act has increased the lifespan of patients by about 10 years on average. It has dramatically improved and standardized clinical care, which helps

drive better outcomes in patients. Finally, it consolidated many therapies into just one.

It was always my goal to help save lives and alleviate pain and suffering. As a physician, I was able to do that with my medical practice. And in Congress, I will continue to keep that goal in mind by advancing policies like these.

As always, I welcome 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.