

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address December 5, 2014 “Border Security”

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Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. In 2010, President Obama said, quote, “I am the president. I am not the king. There is a limit to the discretion I can show because I am obliged to execute the law. I can’t just make the laws up myself.”

That quote is upsetting given the move the president made last week to unilaterally grant amnesty to the millions of illegal immigrants currently living in the United States.

The constitution dictates that it is the job of the Congress, not the executive branch, to take the lead on setting policy for the country. But it is not just a constitutional precedent. In fact, recent polls show that the vast majority of the American people want this type of decision to be made by the legislative branch.

This past spring and summer, the president evoked a crisis in our country by declaring that illegal immigrants in our country would not be immediately sent back. As we Texans know all too well, this caused total chaos on our border with the influx of unaccompanied minors, and it strained our system in a troubling way. By repeatedly acting unilaterally, President Obama is disturbing our careful separation of powers.

What we are now faced with as a Congress is a decision to act in one of two ways: We could either pass a short-term funding bill and deal with larger reforms on this issue in the New Year, or we could fund most of the government, but not the section that deals with Homeland Security. This is not an ideal situation. The American people and average government workers should not have to suffer because the president made unprecedented – and unplanned for – power grabs. If only the president listened to his own declaration about the limits of his power years ago, we would not be in this predicament.

Finally, I want to stress that my position on immigration has not changed. We must first and foremost protect and strengthen our borders, just as other countries all over the world do. In this day and age where terrorism is rampant and bad actors abound, we must do all that we can to protect our country from threats by those who wish to do us harm while simultaneously protecting the constitutional rights of American citizens. I am a proponent of safe and legal immigration. It is what makes our country a wonderful place.

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.