

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address October 17, 2014 “Ebola Hearing Recap”

Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. I know it seems like we're talking about Ebola a lot lately, but that is for a good reason. It is a very serious disease, and it has affected people literally in our backyard.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation just concluded a hearing, in Washington, on the preparedness of the federal agencies as this crisis has evolved.

A lot of questions going into the hearing, not many were answered as a consequence of the hearing. I do still ask the question, where was the personal protection equipment that should have been designated by the CDC? Why wasn't it made more readily available to the hospitals? Where was the training with the equipment that should have occurred for hospital personnel before that first patient walked through the door?

On the issue of the first patient walking through the door, what have we done as far as protecting our citizens with a travel ban on people coming from those countries in Western Africa? Other African countries have, in fact, enacted their own travel bans. Have they got it wrong would be the question that I would ask.

The president does have the authority to affect a control on travel to this country from Western Africa, and he needs to exercise that control. Secretary Burwell of the Department of Health and Human Services also has that authority, but so far the administration and the agency have refused to act.

Today I do feel that the Congress should pass such a travel restriction, send it to the President, and ask him to once again exercise that authority that he has in order to protect the American people.

You know this story is going to go on for a while. I know that many people are tired of hearing about it, but it is important. It's important that you do what you need to do as far as protecting yourself and your family. That includes good hand washing, that includes getting a flu shot so you don't have a febrile illness where then people wonder if it could be something else.

The story will go on for a while, and you can rest assured that my vigilance here will not waiver. I want to thank you for listing. Thank you for allowing me to serve

in the United State Congress. May God bless our troops that are serving in Africa at our behest and may God bless Texas.