

26th Congressional District of Texas

2015 Annual Year End Report

Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D.



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2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Participated in **76** Hearings and Markups in the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Participated in **57** Hearings in the Rules Committee
- Cast **693** votes, a **99.7%** vote attendance record
- Authored and introduced **29** pieces of legislation
- Authored the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA), which was signed into public law
- Cosponsored **163** pieces of legislation
- Opened **547** cases with federal agencies on behalf of constituents
- Received and responded to more than **68,000** pieces of correspondence
- Held or attended more than **500** events
- Assisted in having **71** American flags flown over the U.S. Capitol
- Appointed **24** constituents to U.S. service academies
- Mentioned in **825** newspaper articles and blog posts
- Participated in **61** radio interviews and **40** television interviews
- Issued **59** press releases and **49** weekly video addresses
- Led **12** letters on issues ranging from healthcare to national security
- Assumed role as Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade

It is an honor to serve you in the United States House of Representatives. For the past year, I've done my best to represent you in and advocate on behalf of your interests in Washington. While we have made a lot of progress in the last year to get our economy back on track and rein in the spending and overreach of the government, there is still a lot of work left to be done. In the coming year, I will continue my commitment to advancing a pro-growth, pro-jobs agenda. We need to make government more efficient and reduce the bureaucratic burdens and over regulation that are stifling our economy. With dedication and commitment, we can build this great country back, and we can create a better future for our children and grandchildren.

ABOUT ME



After spending nearly three decades practicing medicine in North Texas as an OB-GYN, I have served the constituents of the 26th District in the United States House of Representatives since 2003.

I currently serve on the prestigious House Energy and Commerce Committee where I served as vice chairman of both the Subcommittees on Health and Oversight and Investigations for the 113th Congress and was a member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Power. In November 2014, I was named Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade for the 114th Congress. In addition, I am a member of the Rules Committee and the Helsinki Commission. In 2009, I founded the Congressional Health Caucus, on which I serve as co-chairman.

Because of my medical background, I have 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. I have voted to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act 54 times. I have played an important role in bipartisan efforts to ensure the safety of food, drugs,

and consumer products, and have introduced legislation to strengthen our ability to stop dangerous goods and products from coming into this country.

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

As a fiscal conservative, I believe Americans deserve a federal government that is more efficient, more effective, less costly, and always transparent. I am a proponent of a flat tax and have introduced a flat tax bill, HR 1040, every term I have served in Congress. I follow a strict adherence to the Constitution and oppose unnecessary expansion of the federal government's control over the personal freedoms of Americans. Instead, I believe in giving people more control over their lives and their money. I am committed to reducing illegal immigration into our country and have taken action to ensure our borders are secure and our immigration laws are enforced. I strongly oppose any proposal to grant amnesty to illegal immigrants.

During my time on Capitol Hill, I have earned a reputation as a problem-solver who seeks sensible solutions to the challenges Americans face and have received several awards including: 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, I represent the majority of Denton County and parts of Tarrant County. I was raised in Denton, and attended The Selwyn School, graduating in 1968 as valedictorian. In addition, I graduated with both an undergraduate and a master's degree from North Texas State University, now the University of North Texas.

I earned my M.D. from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, and completed my residency programs at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. I also earned a master's degree in Medical Management from the University of Texas at Dallas, and in May 2009, was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Public Service from the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center.

My wife, Laura, and I have been married for 41 years. We have three children and two grandsons.

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

I am a member of the [House Energy and Commerce Committee](#), the oldest standing legislative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, and considered to be one of the most powerful committees. This committee has wide-ranging 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 (Federal Trade Commission, Food and Drug Administration, Federal Communications Commission, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). During the 114th Congress, I continue to serve in the following positions:

- **Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade.** Jurisdiction includes: Interstate and foreign commerce, including all trade matters within the jurisdiction of the full committee; regulation of commercial practices (the Federal Trade Commission), including sports-related matters; consumer affairs and consumer protection, including privacy matters generally; data security; consumer product safety (the Consumer Product Safety Commission); product liability; motor vehicle safety; and regulation of travel, tourism, and time.
- **Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.** Jurisdiction includes: oversight of agencies, departments, and programs within the jurisdiction of the full committee, and investigations within such jurisdiction.
- **Member, Subcommittee on Health.** Jurisdiction includes: Public health and quarantine; hospital construction; mental health; biomedical research and development; health information technology, privacy, and cybersecurity; public health insurance (Medicare, Medicaid) and private health insurance; medical malpractice and medical malpractice insurance; food, drugs, and cosmetics; drug abuse; the Department of Health and Human Services; the National Institutes of Health; the Centers for Disease Control; Indian Health Service; and all aspects of the above-referenced jurisdiction related to the Department of Homeland Security.

RULES COMMITTEE

I was asked again to serve on the powerful House Rules Committee for the 114th Congress. Chaired by fellow Texas Representative, Pete Sessions, the Rules Committee establishes the parameters of debate for every bill considered by the House of Representatives on the House floor. The committee consists of nine Republicans and four Democrats and meets weekly to discuss the floor schedule and vote on bills for debate. As a member of this committee, I am in a unique position to influence policy on every aspect of the House agenda, including issues pertaining to health care, energy, spending, national security, and intelligence.

- During the first session of the 114th Congress, the Rules Committee has met nearly 60 times to move critical pieces of legislation to the House Floor for consideration.
- I supported numerous key amendments to major pieces of legislation so that they could be considered by the full House, including an amendment made in order to the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act that would require the Department of Defense to report to Congress how far along it is on being able to pass an audit. Despite a law in 1990 requiring the action, the DOD has yet to achieve an audit and be accountable for its spending. This legislation would correct that lapse.
- I managed 9 Rules on the House floor, providing for the consideration of key pieces of legislation pertaining to health care and energy policy.

CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP

A Congressional caucus, also known as a Congressional Member Organization, is a group of members of the United States Congress that meets to pursue common legislative objectives. A caucus can be bi-partisan and contain members of both houses. Because a caucus is comprised of members with similar ideas and goals, it can be quite important and powerful.

Caucus Chairman/Co-Chair

- Congressional Health Care Caucus
- Congressional Motorcycle Caucus
- Congressional Multiple Sclerosis Caucus
- Congressional Flat Tax Caucus
- Congressional Osteoporosis Caucus

Caucus Membership:

- Bipartisan Congressional Privacy Caucus
- Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease
- Bipartisan Cystic Fibrosis Caucus
- Bipartisan Disaster Relief Caucus
- Coalition for Autism Research and Education
- Congressional Affordable Medicines Caucus
- Congressional Afghan Caucus
- Congressional Allergy and Asthma Caucus
- Congressional Anti-Terrorism Caucus
- Congressional Army Caucus
- Congressional Automotive Performance & Motorsport Caucus
- Congressional Aviation Caucus
- Congressional Balanced Budget Amendment Caucus
- Congressional Bike Caucus
- Congressional Boating Caucus
- Congressional Caucus on Community Health Centers
- Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans
- Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease

- Congressional Diabetes Caucus
- Congressional Downs Syndrome Caucus
- Congressional Dyslexia Caucus
- Congressional Efficiency Caucus
- Congressional Horse Caucus
- Congressional High Technology Caucus
- Congressional Mental Health Caucus
- Congressional Navy and Marine Corps Caucus
- Congressional Pakistan Caucus
- Congressional Research and Development Caucus
- Congressional Taiwan Caucus
- Congressional United Services Organization Caucus
- Congressional Western Caucus
- GOP Doctors Caucus
- House Air Force Caucus
- House Agriculture Energy Users Caucus
- House Biofuels Caucus
- House General Aviation Caucus
- House Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus
- House Tea Party Caucus
- Military Veterans Caucus
- National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus
- Next Gen 9-1-1 Caucus
- Immigration Reform Caucus
- Zero Capital Gains Tax Caucus

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 [Texas office](#) 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. 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 of 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 provides 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.

Visit burgess.house.gov for additional information on the 26th District of Texas.

FOCUS ON 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 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.

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 inalienable 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.

ABOUT THE 26TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

The 26th United States Congressional District of Texas is located in the heart of North Texas. The 26th District includes most of Denton County, as well as large portions of Tarrant County, and a sliver of Dallas County.

- In Dallas County, I represent the city of Irving.
- In Denton County, I represent the cities of Argyle, Aubrey, Bartonville, Copper Canyon, Corinth, Corral City, Cross Roads, Denton, DISH, Double Oak, Flower Mound, Frisco, Hackberry, Haslet, Hickory Creek, Highland Village, Justin, Krugerville, Krum, Lake Dallas, Lakewood Village, Lewisville, Lincoln Park, Little Elm, Northlake, Oak Point, Pilot Point, Ponder, Providence Village, Roanoke, Sanger, Shady Shores, The Colony, and Trophy Club.
- In Tarrant County, I represent the cities of Haltom City, Haslet, Keller, North Richland Hills, Watauga, Westlake, and Fort Worth.

The 26th United States Congressional District of Texas continues to flourish. Rapid growth and business expansions from Dallas and the Tarrant County area make the District a thriving economic center. The University of North Texas, Texas Woman's University, and North Central Texas College anchor a large student base within the District.

The 26th District is also home to the Barnett Shale, the largest field of natural gas reserves in the country, which supports local economic development, jobs, and provides clean energy to the region and the country. Agriculture plays an important role in the 26th District. Ranchers raise horses, beef cattle, sheep and goats, while farmers grow corn, wheat, hay, and other crops. The impact of farming and ranching results in thousands of jobs and a contribution of hundreds of millions of dollars to the regional and statewide economies.

The 26th District is home to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region VI Headquarters in Denton, Texas, which provides assistance to a five-state region: Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico. Its mission is to reduce the loss of life and property, and to protect institutions through an emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. It is also home to the Denton Mobile Emergency Response Support Detachment.

Housing the I-35 East and West corridors, the 26th District is a vital artery for Texas and international transportation. The District houses both the Lakeview Airport, Denton Municipal Airport, Northwest Regional Airport, and Alliance Airport. The 26th District also sports the Texas Motor Speedway, which hosts two Nextel-NASCAR events in the spring and fall.



2015 CONSTITUENT SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

Number of cases opened with various federal agencies: **547**

- Veterans Affairs—89
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—109
- Social Security and Medicare—101
- Internal Revenue Service—49
- United States Postal Service—264
- Department of Defense—60
- Various other agencies—115

Constituent Correspondence:

- Received and responded to more than 67,000 pieces of correspondence

Events and Meetings:

- Traveled more than 5,800 miles in North Texas
- Held or attended more than 500 events
- Held 3 town hall meetings and 3 Summits

Other Services Provided:

- U.S. Capitol tours provided to 1,373 people
- Hosted 22 interns in my Washington, D.C. and Texas offices
- Assisted in having 71 flags flown over the U.S. Capitol

TOURS, INTERNSHIPS, AND ASSISTANCE

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 2015, **547** constituents from the district received assistance in the form of a congressional inquiry to address an issue or concern with a federal agency. Out of the **547** cases opened in 2015, I was able to resolve **398** before the end of the year. Some of the more frequent topics I assisted with included benefits from the Social Security Administration, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, Internal Revenue Service and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. In addition, my office assisted **880** constituents with various non-legislative issues. I sent **1,859** correspondences via mail providing casework updates and informational referrals. More than **50%** of the constituents who contacted my office with concerns relating to a federal agency resided in Lewisville, Denton, Frisco, Flower Mound and NE Tarrant County.

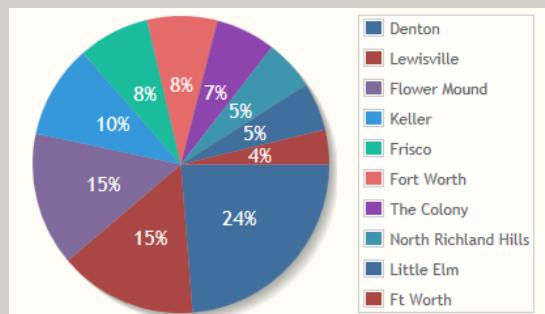
Through the casework process, I was able to get **\$747,442.17** released to constituents within the 26th District, owed to them in such ways as retroactive pay, tax refunds, erroneous debt collection, burial funds, compensation benefits, and debt forgiveness.

During 2015, over **1,373** people received a tour of the U.S. Capitol from a request that was made through my office. My Washington, D.C. office facilitated over **707** families and groups in requesting tickets for a tour of the White House this year as well. In addition, my office assisted in having **71** flags flown over the U.S. Capitol.

My Washington, D.C. and Texas offices hosted **22** college and high school interns from such schools as the University of North Texas, the University of Texas, the University of Arkansas, Oklahoma State University, Texas Tech University, Freed-Hardeman University, American University (Washington, D.C.), Southern Methodist University, the University of Denver, Wagner College (NY), Liberty Christian School (Argyle), Coram Deo Academy (Flower Mound), Baylor University, and Texas A&M University.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH NORTH TEXANS

Since the beginning of 2015, more than **67,000** North Texans have contacted me through email, letters, phone calls, and faxes, to express their concerns and communicate their opinions to me on various topics. Immigration was by far the most common topic of communication with more than **5,600** pieces of correspondence received. That issue was followed by people expressing their concerns over health, with more than **3,700** pieces of correspondence, and Foreign Affairs, with more than **3,500** pieces of correspondence.



EVENTS AND MEETINGS

In 2015, I traveled more than 5,800 miles in North Texas. I held or attended more than 500 events, including **20 Chamber of Commerce meetings, 132 health care related meetings and events and 144 meetings that covered everything from transportation, the economy, energy and education.**

Over the course of the year, I held three general town hall meetings: in June, a Frisco Town Hall at Lone Star High School, in August, a Denton Town Hall at Guyer High School, and Keller/Fort Worth Town Hall at Timber Creek High. I also was recognized as a special guest at a town hall meeting hosted by Texas State Representative Stephanie Klick.

In addition, I held three summits that brought leaders from the local, state and federal levels together to address key issues facing North Texans.

Emergency Preparedness Summit: The 7th Annual Emergency Preparedness Summit was held on April 18 at Denton ISD's LaGrone Advanced Technology Complex. The keynote speakers were Colleen Coyle, Meteorologist for WFAA/ABC Channel 8, Brad Barton, Chief Meteorologist for WBAP News/Talk 820 AM Radio, and Tony Robinson, Region 6 Administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The event included three panels of experts from local and state organizations that provided information on weather forecasting & broadcasting, school safety, and wildfire preparedness. There was a large fair with indoor booths and outdoor exhibits where weather and disaster specific organizations presented and distributed pertinent consumer information.



Energy Efficiency Summit: The 9th Annual Energy Efficiency Summit was held on July 11 at the University of North Texas' Discovery Park in Denton. Chris Miles, Founder of GreenCraft Builders, discussed home energy efficiency and Dr. Yong Tao, Chair of the UNT Department of Mechanical & Energy Engineering, spoke regarding new technologies to save energy and reduce costs in the design and construction of buildings and houses, and there was also a presentation on transit efficiency by Drew Campbell, Senior Partner at Capitol Insight. A program highlight was Dr. Brent Dragoo and student members of Liberty Christian School's Solar Team, speaking about their entry in the 2015 World Solar Car Challenge in Australia. In addition, there was also an indoor Energy Efficiency Fair with booths providing energy-related information and resources as well as an Auto Show featuring the latest fuel efficient vehicles and a solar powered boat and competition car.

Transportation Summit: The 13th Annual Transportation Summit afforded federal, state and local transportation leaders the opportunity to discuss advances in highway safety technology and ongoing transportation infrastructure priorities. I co-hosted the event with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), on November 23 at the University of North Texas Apogee Stadium in Denton. The summit featured federal keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Rosekind, Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and state keynote speaker, State Senator Don Huffines (SD 16), Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation. Updates on construction projects within the 26th District were provided by Bill Hale, TxDOT Chief Engineer, Brian Barth, TxDOT Fort Worth District Engineer, Kelly Selman, TxDOT Dallas District Engineer, and Michael Morris, Transportation Director at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Bill Hale and Dr. Rosekind participated in a panel discussion regarding "Present Day Safety Challenges and Future Challenges with New Technologies" with Dr. Christopher Poe, Senior Research Director at Texas A&M Transportation Institute and Eric Hemphill, Director of System & Incident Management at North Texas Transportation Authority.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

2015 Congressional Veteran Commendation

The Congressional Veteran Commendation (CVC) was created in 2005 to honor the distinguished living veterans of Texas' 26th District. This year's commendations were presented at the 13th annual "Salute Our Veterans" luncheon on November 9, sponsored by the Highland Village Business Association and the City of Highland Village. I was pleased to provide each Vietnam War veteran in attendance at the luncheon with a special 50th anniversary commemorative lapel pin. Nominations were solicited from the public and those chosen to receive this year's Congressional Veteran Commendation were:

- **Jack Bailey - Flower Mound (Major - US Army/Commander - US Navy)**
- **Forrest Beadle - Denton (Captain - US Army)**
- **Doug Brown - Flower Mound (Chief Warrant Officer - US Army)**
- **Andre "Frenchy" Rheault - Denton (Master Sergeant - US Air Force)**
- **Gary Steele - Denton (Senior Master Sergeant - US Air Force)**



U.S. Service Academies

On April 11, I co-hosted the annual North Texas Academies Forum with 12 other congressional offices to inform high school students about the U.S. Service Academies. Over 800 students and parents attended. Students requesting appointments to the U.S. Service Academies are rigorously evaluated on a variety of criteria including academic performance, leadership qualifications and physical preparedness. Appointments to an academy must be preceded by a nomination from a Member of Congress, Academy Superintendent, the Vice President or a military connected nomination. The exception is to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, where a nomination is not required for consideration, but appointments are based upon a competitive nationwide admissions process. The 26th District Service Academy Board, comprised of academy graduates and representatives from higher education and the community, is chaired by Lt. General Charles R. Hamm, retired former Superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy and 26th district resident. The Board recommends to me for nomination those outstanding service academy candidates selected through comprehensive screenings and personal interviews.



On June 19, 24 students residing in the 26th District of Texas who accepted appointments to the U.S. Service Academies were honored at a reception hosted by the City of Denton, the Denton Airport and the Denton Airshow. These young men and women are attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY, and the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO. I presented the appointees with a Special Certificate of Congressional Recognition and an American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of their appointments. Special guests at the reception were 2015 U.S. Naval Academy graduates, U.S. Navy Ensign Morgan Stamm of Flower Mound and U.S. Marine Corps 2nd Lieutenant Nicolas Towers of Keller.

High School Art Competition: "An Artistic Discovery"

The 13th annual 26th District Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery," was open to public, private and home-schooled high school students residing in or attending schools in the district. Entries were submitted digitally by art teachers on behalf of their students. This provided an opportunity for a "Texas Choice" winner to be selected by popular vote in the virtual gallery on my website. Skye Matlock, a sophomore at Flower Mound High School and student of Brenda Robson, was the winner of this category for her colored pencil artwork entitled "Blue Boy." The competition was judged by professional artist and instructor Jo Williams. Williams reviewed the posted artwork online and determined the contest finalists based upon artistic merit, selecting a "Best of School" award for one student from each school based on her appraisal of artwork that had a high level of artistic merit and execution. These students were also finalists in the competition.



I honored the finalists with a "Certificate of Congressional Recognition" at a reception on April 27 at the Center for the Visual Arts in Denton hosted by the art competition's co-sponsor, The Greater Denton Arts Council. Bryant Grizzle, a junior art student taught by Martin Kruk at Flower Mound High School, won the Grand Prize in the 2015 competition with his conte crayon artwork entitled "Don't Step On Me." As the Grand Prize winner, Grizzle will have his artwork displayed for an entire year in the U.S. Capitol.

LEGISLATIVE WORK



SNAPSHOT OF LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Participated in 59 hearings in the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Participated in 57 Hearings in the Rules Committee
- Participated in more than 17 markups in the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Cast 693 votes, a 99.7% attendance record
- Co-sponsored 163 bills
- Member of the Helsinki Commission



COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING, & TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE



In 2015, Congressman Burgess became the newest Subcommittee Chairman on the Energy & Commerce Committee, taking the gavel to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade (CMT). The CMT Subcommittee has a broad swath of jurisdiction, primarily overseeing the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), and the U.S. Trade Representative's office.

Under my leadership, the CMT Subcommittee greatly increased its visibility in 2015, building on the work begun by previous Chairmen Lee Terry (R-NE) and Mary Bono Mack (R-CA). Much of the first few months of 2015 were spent focusing on crafting strong Data Security and Breach Notification legislation, working with Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Congressman Peter Welch (D-VT) to draft a bill that brought together private industry and federal agencies toward a federal standard to govern the procedures for protecting consumer information

and dictating procedures for when a breach occurs. This legislation became especially important following the high-profile breaches of Target, Home Depot, and Sony Pictures.

The CMT Subcommittee also focused on crafting strong Patent Demand Letter legislation (H.R. 2045), the Targeting Rogue and Opaque Letters (TROL) Act, in response to testimony the committee took early in the year from patent holders who have been harassed by so-called patent 'trolls' who seek to extort large sums of money by using vague and threatening patent enforcement letters.

CMT was instrumental in moving new traffic safety legislation, included in the 2015 Highway Bill, that provides NHTSA with new authorities to oversee automakers and streamline recalls, issues the subcommittee has been overseeing for the past few years following the high-profile manufacturing defects with the Takata airbags, causing numerous deaths in the U.S.



LEGISLATION I INTRODUCED IN 2015

- **H.R. 2**, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, introduced March 24, with Rep. Upton (R-MI), Rep. Levin (D-MI), Rep. Ryan (R-WI), Rep. Pallone (D-NJ), Rep. Pitts (R-PA), Rep. Green (D-TX), Rep. Brady (R-TX), Rep. McDermott (D-WA), Rep. Boustany (R-LA), and Rep. Sessions (R-TX), permanently repealed and replaced the Medicare reimbursement formula that has been a source of continued concern for physicians that serve Medicare beneficiaries and for the beneficiaries themselves since 1997.
 - On March 26, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2 overwhelmingly with a vote of 392-37. The bill passed the Senate without amendment on April 14, by a vote of 92-8. President Obama signed the bill into law on April 16, and it became Public Law Number 114-10.
- **H.R. 292**, the Advancing Research for Neurological Diseases Act of 2015, introduced January 13, with Rep. VanHollen (D-MD), would improve and enhance the infrastructure at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in tracking the incidence and prevalence of neurological diseases, including Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's disease.
 - H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, included the language of H.R. 292, and H.R. 6 passed by regular order in the House of Representatives on July 10, by a vote of 344-77.
- **H.R. 293**, the Protect Continuing Physician Education and Patient Care Act, introduced January 13, with Rep. DeFazio (D-OR), would ensure that health care providers and patients continue to have robust access to educational materials and continuing medical education under the Physicians Payments Sunshine Act.
 - H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, included the language of H.R. 293, and H.R. 6 passed by regular order in the House of Representatives on July 10, by a vote of 344-77.
- **H.R. 298**, the Medical Testing Availability Act of 2015, introduced January 13, with Rep. Speier (D-CA), would stop FDA from limiting patient access to incredible advances in personalized medicine. The bill would clarify that the use of a research-use-only labeled product by an end user for something other than research does not constitute an intended use by the manufacturer and therefore is not in itself a violation of federal law.

LEGISLATION I INTRODUCED IN 2015

- **H.R. 647**, the Access to Life-Saving Trauma Care for All Americans Act, and **H.R. 648**, the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act, both introduced February 2, with Rep. Green (D-TX), would strengthen trauma care systems to ensure patients in communities across the country have access to vital life-saving care.
 - Both bills passed by regular order in the House of Representatives on March 16, under suspension of the rules. H.R. 647 passed by a vote of 389-10 an H.R. 648 passed by a vote of 382-15.
- **H.R. 1196**, the Health Savings Act of 2015, introduced March 2, would protect Health Savings Accounts (HSA) from bankruptcy proceedings, allow and incentivize parents and guardians to establish HSAs for children, increase the HSA annual contribution limits for an individual and a family, and expand the health plans defined as HSA compatible.
- **H.R. 1576**, the Generic Complex Drugs Safety and Effectiveness for Patients Act, introduced March 24, with Rep. Butterfield (D-NC), would require that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct a study to ensure that abbreviated approval pathways are sufficient to address the novel scientific challenges for manufacturers seeking to create generic versions of non-biologic complex drugs.
 - On December 10, the House of Representatives, Committee on Energy and Commerce sent a letter to the Comptroller General to request that GAO conduct the study described in H.R. 1576; this letter accomplishes the goal of the bill and ensure that GAO will conduct the study.
- **H.R. 1209**, the Improving Access to Maternity Care Act, introduced March 3, with Rep. Capps (D-CA), would create a maternity care health professional shortage designation for providers participating in the National Health Service Corps.
- **H.R. 1376**, the Providers COMPETE Act of 2015, introduced on March 16, would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to seek public comment, on and evaluate the extent to which any proposed regulation will affect consolidation of health care providers.
- **H.R. 2196**, the Medicare Independence at Home Medical Practice Demonstration Improvement Act of 2015, introduced May 1, with Rep. Thompson (D-CA), extended a Medicare program that provides a home-based primary care benefit to high-need Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions, allowing them to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations, ER visits, and nursing home use, all while generating substantial savings and positive outcomes.
 - The Senate companion bill, S. 971, passed by voice vote on April 22, passed the full House by voice vote on July 15, and was signed by the President on July 30, to become Public Law Number 114-39.
- **H.R. 2414**, the Improving Medical Communications Act, introduced May 19, with Rep. Long (R-MO) and Rep. Schrader (D-OR), would promote patient safety by encouraging the FDA to better promote free and full dissemination of truthful and non-misleading scientific and medical information to healthcare professionals regarding FDA-approved medicines.
- **H.R. 6**, the 21st Century Cures Act, included the language of H.R. 2414, and H.R. 6 passed by regular order in the House of Representatives on July 10, by a vote of 344-77.
- **H.R. 2415**, the Streamlined Data Review Act, introduced May 19, with Rep. Engel (D-NY), would formally establish a program within the FDA to allow for submission of summary data with applications for supplemental indications of well-established therapies, such as cancer.
 - H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, included the language of H.R. 2415, and H.R. 6 passed by regular order in the House of Representatives on July 10, by a vote of 344-77.
- **H.R. 2416**, the Evidence from Clinical Experience Act, introduced May 19, would require the FDA to evaluate the potential use of evidence from clinical experience to support the approval of a new indication for an approved drug or to support or satisfy post-approval study requirements.
 - H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, included the language of H.R. 2416, and H.R. 6 passed by regular order in the House of Representatives on July 10, by a vote of 344-77.
- **H.R. 2417**, the Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act of 2015, introduced May 19, with Rep. Cummings (D-MD), would eliminate the special treatment under law received by a small number of foreign medical schools and require them to meet the same enrollment and pass rate standards as all other medical schools outside of the U.S. and Canada participating in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan program.
- **H.R. 466**, a bill to remove any authority the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has to carry out drone strikes abroad and transfer that power solely to the Department of Defense (DOD), was introduced on January 22. The CIA's mission is to gather intelligence, not act as a paramilitary organization. This legislation will clarify the lines

LEGISLATION I INTRODUCED IN 2015

of jurisdiction for the CIA and DOD.

- **H.R. 530**, the Unaccompanied Alien Children Assistance Control Act, was introduced on January 26. This legislation directs the President to reduce foreign assistance allocations for Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, or El Salvador by \$15,000 for each unaccompanied alien child who is a national or citizen of those countries that is placed in federal custody because of their immigration status.
- **H.R. 2461**, the Preservation of Access to Osteoporosis Testing for Medicare Beneficiaries Act, introduced May 20, with Rep. Larson (D-CT) would restore Medicare reimbursement for Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry screening, the gold standard for early detection and prevention of osteoporosis and bone fractures, to ensure that patients have access to access to effective and efficient preventative services.
- **H.R. 3660**, the Scoring Preventive Health Savings Act, introduced October 1, with Rep. DeGette (D-CO), would enable the Congressional Budget Office to consider a longer window when creating cost estimates and scores on bills related to public health. This would allow bills that improve public health in the long term to have a lower cost estimate or score.
- **H.R. 3958**, the Veterans Health Care Stamp Act, introduced November 11, with Rep. Jones (R-NC) and Rep. McCollum (D-MN), would require the U.S. Postal Service to issue and sell a Veterans Health Care Stamp to help fund the medical care and treatment of veterans.
- **H.R.434**, the Leave Ethanol Volumes at Existing Levels Act, introduced January 21, would repeal the 2007 amendments to the Renewable Fuel Standard, which required increased volumes of ethanol to be blended into the national fuel supply.
- **H.R. 1939**, the No Armed Drones Act of 2015, introduced on April 22. This legislation would prohibit the Department of Transportation from authorizing any person to operate an unmanned aircraft system (drone) in the national air-space as a weapon or to deliver a weapon against a person or property.
- **H.R.1040**, the Flat Tax Act, introduced February 24 would provide for an individual or business to choose to pay a flat income tax rate instead of continuing to pay under the current income tax system run by the Internal Revenue Service with a unified, single tax rate. This voluntary system would begin at a rate of 19% for the first two years after an election is made, and 17% thereafter.
- **H.R.2045**, the Targeting Rogue and Opaque Letters Act of 2015, introduced on April 28, with Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ), Rep. Greg Harper (R-MS), and Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), would provide new authorities for the Federal Trade Commission to enforce against unfair and deceptive written communications pertaining to the enforcement of a patent.
- **H.R.2771**, the Group Term Life Insurance Increase Act of 2015, introduced on June 15, increases the limit on the amount of employer-provided group term life insurance that an employee may exclude from his or her gross income for income tax purposes. Currently, an employee may exclude from gross income up to \$50,000 of the cost of such insurance plus any amount paid by the employee for the purchase of such insurance. The bill increases the \$50,000 limit to \$375,000, and adjusts such increased limit for inflation in taxable years beginning after 2015.

2015 PRIORITY COSPONSORED LEGISLATION

In 2015, I cosponsored 168 pieces of legislation. Below are a sampling of these priority pieces of legislation:

- **H.R. 3459**, the Protecting Local Business Opportunity Act, was introduced by Rep. John Kline (R-MN) on September 9. This legislation would amend the National Labor Relations Act to allow two or more employers to be considered joint employers only if each employer shares and exercises control over essential terms and conditions of employment. This bill would reverse a National Labor Relations Board ruling that companies can be held responsible for labor violations committed by their contractors.
- **H.R. 3011**, Kate's Law, was introduced by Rep. Matt Salmon (R-AZ) on July 9, in reaction to the shooting of Kate Steinle by an illegal alien. This bill would increase the penalties to aliens who unlawfully reenter the U.S. after being removed.
- **H.R. 3437**, the Protecting American Lives Act, was introduced by Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX) on July 31. This bill would reverse sanctuary city policies by clarifying the authority of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to deport

2015 PRIORITY COSPONSORED LEGISLATION

illegal immigrants and would prohibit federal funds from going to state and political subdivisions who do not comply with ICE.

- **H.R. 3314**, the Resettlement Accountability National Security Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX) on July 29. This bill would prohibit the admission of refugees into the U.S. until Congress passes a joint resolution giving DHS authority to resume admitting refugees, as well as require the GAO to report on refugees who receive benefits under Medicare, Medicaid, disability insurance, SNAP, and section 8 rental assistance.
- **H.R. 3573**, the Refugee Resettlement Oversight and Security Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) on September 18. This bill would prohibit the admittance of refugees in a fiscal year until Congress enacts a joint resolution setting the number that may be admitted.
- **H.R. 4197**, the State Refugee Security Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) on December 9, as a companion to Senator Cruz's bill in the Senate, S.2363. These bills would prohibit the resettlement of an alien refugee in a state if the governor determines that the Office of Refugee Resettlement has failed to provide adequate assurance that such person does not present a security risk to that state.
- **H.R. 241**, the ADA Compliance for Customer Entry to Stores and Services (ACCESS) Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA) on January 9. This bill would amend the Americans with Disabilities Act to prohibit an aggrieved person from commencing a civil action for discrimination based on the failure to remove a structural barrier to entry unless the owner/operator of such accommodation is provided written notice and has failed to remove such barrier.

SPONSORED LEGISLATION AS LEAD REPUBLICAN

- **H.R. 942**, the Audit the Pentagon Act of 2015, was introduced with Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL) on February 12. This legislation would impose a 0.5% penalty on discretionary spending for federal agencies that have not submitted financial statements for a fiscal year or have submitted a financial statement that has not received an audit opinion by an independent external auditor. Under current law, federal agencies must pass an independent external audit every year. Yet, for 20 years the Department of Defense is the only major agency that is not compliant with this requirement.
- **H.R. 1807**, the Sickle Cell Disease Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2015, introduced with Rep. Davis (D-IL) on April 15, would require the Department of Health and Human Services to make grants to states to: (1) collect data on the prevalence and distribution of sickle cell disease, (2) conduct sickle cell disease public health initiatives to improve access to care and health outcomes, and (3) identify and evaluate strategies for prevention and treatment of sickle cell disease complications.
- **H.R. 3658**, the Gestational Diabetes Act of 2015, introduced with Rep. Engel (D-NY) on September 30, would direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a multisite gestational diabetes research project within the diabetes program of the CDC to expand and enhance surveillance data and public health research on gestational diabetes.



2015 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **SGR Repeal:** Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015: The Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) was enacted in 1997 and has been a source of continued concern for physicians that serve Medicare beneficiaries and for the beneficiaries themselves. While Congress has long recognized the SGR as a flawed formula, Congress has repeatedly implemented a temporary “doc fix” to prevent reimbursement cuts from year-to-year. After years of dedication with the Energy and Commerce Committee, Congress was finally able to reform the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate permanently. I requested a hearing, “A Permanent Solution to the SGR: The Time is Now”, which was held January 21, making it the first hearing to be held by the Health Subcommittee in 2015. Following the hearing, staff worked to update the SGR legislation and to ensure that all of the principals were up to date. The bill was reintroduced with several extenders as H.R. 2, a bill number reserved for Speaker priorities. March 26, H.R. 2 passed overwhelmingly by a vote of 392-37. The bill passed the Senate without amendment on April 14, 92-8. President Obama signed the bill into law on April 16, making it Public Law No: 114-10.
- **Trauma Legislation:** I introduced two trauma bills with Rep. Gene Green (D-TX), H.R. 647 the Access to Life-Saving Trauma Care for All Americans Act and H.R. 648, the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act. Following passage of H.R. 4080 by voice vote in 2014, the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act was reintroduced as H.R. 648 on February 2, along with H.R. 647 the Access to Life-Saving Trauma Care for All Americans Act. These two bills would strengthen trauma care systems to help ensure patients in communities all across the country have access to vital life-saving care. H.R. 647 and H.R. 648 were unanimously approved by voice vote by the Energy & Commerce Committee’s Health Subcommittee on February 6 and by full committee on March 16. Both bills passed by regular order in the House of Representatives on March 16 under suspension of the rules.
- **FDA Responds to Place Holder for Off-Label Use in 21st Century Cures Draft:** When the 21st Century Cures Discussion White Paper was made public on January 27, I included a placeholder for Subtitle H “Facilitating Responsible Communication of Scientific and Medical Developments.” This section was intended to amend rules and policies to allow drug and device developers to communicate scientific and medical developments with physicians, insurers, and researchers. Currently, drug companies may not promote uses that have not been approved by the FDA, although physicians may prescribe medicines off-label for whatever condition they want. In response to pressure, the FDA held a public meeting over the summer to address drug company concerns about restriction of communication about off-label use of drugs.
- **Independence at Home:** I sponsored H.R. 2196, the Medicare Independence at Home Medical Practice Demonstration Improvement Act, introduced with Rep. Peter Roskam (R-IL) and Rep. Mike Thompson. (D-CA). This bill provides for an increase in the limit on the Medicare independence at home practice demonstration program from 3 years to 5 years. IAH provides a home-based primary care benefit to high-need Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions, allowing them to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations, ER visits, and nursing home use, all while generating substantial savings and positive outcomes. Without this extension, the demonstration would have expired in June 2015 without allowing time for CMS to issue savings information and risk the continued savings and care benefits to the Medicare program and beneficiaries that this program provides. The Senate companion bill, S. 971, passed by voice vote on April 22 and passed the House Committee on Ways and Means by voice vote on June 2. S. 971 passed the full House on July 15 by voice vote and was signed by the President on July 30 to become Public Law No: 114-39
- **Improving Access to Maternity Care Act:** Across the country, women with the greatest need for maternity care services lack access to providers of such care. In an effort to increase the number of maternity health providers practicing in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA), I introduced H.R. 1209, the Improving Access to Maternity Care Act with Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA) that would establish a maternity care HPSA designation, in addition to dental, mental health, and primary care, so that maternity professionals who wish to participate in a primary care shortage area can seek placement in communities that need them most. This year, staff focused heavily on garnering additional cosponsors and, as a result, the Committee on Energy and Commerce included this bill in a legislative hearing on December 9.

2015 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Preservation of Access to Osteoporosis Testing for Medicare Beneficiaries Act:** The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 led to alarming cuts in Medicare Part B reimbursement for Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry (DXA) screening, the gold standard for prevention of osteoporosis and bone fractures. Because DXA was unintentionally included in cuts to other types of radiological tests, DXA testing in older women has declined to the lowest point in 11 years. The cuts for reimbursement took effect in 2007 and have now dropped to 75 percent of the 2006 level. In an effort to establish a business case for physicians to provide DXA services, Congress moved to establish a minimum payment for DXA tests equal to \$98 under Medicare Part B in 2010. However, a 2 year payment relief expired in 2012 and, as a result, we are seeing a decrease in testing again. In an effort to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries continue to restore access to a necessary preventative service to provide extensive public health and economic benefits, I introduced H.R. 2461, the Preservation of Access to Osteoporosis Testing for Medicare Beneficiaries Act, along with Rep. Larson (D-CT), Rep. Blackburn (R-TN), and Rep. Sanchez (D-CA), which simply reestablishes the negotiated payment rate from 2010.
- **GAO Study on FDA Regulation of Generic Versions of Non-Biologic Complex Drugs:** The FDA has begun approving generic versions of non-biologic complex drugs (NBCDs), drugs of non-biological origin with an active ingredient that has molecular diversity. This class of complex drugs presents novel scientific challenges for manufacturers seeking to create generic versions, and so it is essential to determine if the current regulatory process is adequate for the approval of NBCDs. I introduced H.R. 1576, the Generic Complex Drugs Safety and Effectiveness for Patients Act with Rep. Butterfield (D-NC). The bill would require that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct a study to determine whether generic versions of certain NBCDs face significantly different challenges in meeting FDA approval standards than small-molecule drugs, and if so, how the regulatory pathways should be modified to ensure that the regulatory process is adequate for approval of NBCDs. On December 10, the Committee on Energy and Commerce sent a letter to the Comptroller General to request that GAO conduct the study described in H.R. 1576; this letter accomplishes the goal of the bill and ensures that the study will be completed. The letter was signed by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Health, Dr. Burgess, Rep. Butterfield, and Rep. Bilirakis.
- **21st Century Cures Act, H.R. 6:** In 2014, Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) began discussions surrounding the 21st Century Cures initiative in an effort to address the ever-growing gap between innovations and how America regulates these therapies. After dozens of roundtables and events to hear from the patients, advocates, researchers and innovators that have firsthand experience and understand the gaps in the current system, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce came together to decide what to include in the 21st Century Cures legislation. The product is a bill that touches every step of the healthcare innovation process: discovery, development, and delivery. H.R. 6 was unanimously approved by the Committee on Energy and Commerce on May 21, 2015. H.R. 6 passed the House of Representatives on July 13 by a vote of 344-77. I have been recognized as a lead architect of the 21st Century Cures Act and, outside of Chairman Upton, was arguably the most successful in getting legislative provisions included in the bill. The 21st Century Cures Act contains five bills that were introduced as standalone bills and 3 other sections that I helped author.
 - **Ensuring Interoperability of Health Information Technology** – Section 3001: As of October 2015, data shows that the Federal government has spent over 31 billion dollars to incentivize adoption and utilization of Electronic Health Record systems by care providers and hospitals. The massive investment of taxpayer dollars carried with it the promise of unlocking health information that has historically been locked away in paper files. In an effort to close the gap between the functionality of EHR systems and technological capabilities presently available, I included a provision to refocus national efforts on making systems interoperable and holding individuals responsible for blocking or otherwise inhibiting the flow of health information throughout the healthcare system. This legislation is critical to harnessing the potential benefits of health information technology for the information needs of patients and health care providers, emerging models of delivery and payment, and advances in biomedical innovation.

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- **Approval of Breakthrough Therapies** – Section 2081: I included a Sense of Congress to reaffirm that the FDA should continue to expedite the approval of drugs designated as breakthrough therapies as early as possible in the clinical development process, provided that the application for a drug meets the required evidentiary standards of safety and effectiveness.
- **Expanded Access Improvement and Draft Guidance** – Section 2082-83: I led these sections with Rep. McCaul (R-TX) to require certain manufacturers or distributors of investigational drugs to make publicly available their expanded access policy. Also, FDA would be required to expedite guidance to provide much needed clarity to sponsors seeking drug approval regarding the consideration during the drug review process.
- **Real World Evidence** – Section 2062, H.R. 2416: Currently the FDA may only rely on data from randomized clinical trials to make post-approval decisions for drugs, even when a substantial amount of real-world evidence is available. Evidence from sources such as observational studies, registries, and therapeutic use has substantial benefits to informing important decisions within the FDA, especially with regard to safety information. Sec. 2062 would require the FDA to evaluate the potential use of evidence from clinical experience to support the approval of a new indication for an approved drug or to support or satisfy post-approval study requirements.
- **Streamlined Data Review** – Section 2063, H.R. 2415: Once a drug has been approved by the FDA, the manufacturer may only promote that drug for the approved indication even if the sponsor determines, after initial approval, that the drug is an effective treatment for other indications. In order to include a new indication on labels and promote the indication for use, the manufacturer must submit a supplemental new drug application (sNDA) or supplemental biologics license application (sBLA). These applications typically require the same information as the original new drug application and the FDA commonly performs additional analysis simply to confirm results from the original applications, often leading to unnecessary consumption of time and resources. Sect. 2063, introduced with Rep. Engel (D-NY) would formally establish a program within the FDA to allow for submission of summary data with applications for supplemental indications of well-established therapies, such as cancer.
- **Improving Medical Communications** – Section 2101-02, H.R. 2414: The FDA contains limitations on what pharmaceutical companies can communicate to healthcare professionals about their drugs even if there is medical and scientific evidence, preventing healthcare professionals from receiving the most up-to-date scientific information available about the benefits and risks of FDA approved legislation. A lack of relevant information can lead to physicians making patient care decisions with incomplete information. This section, which was introduced with Rep. Schrader (D-OR), would be a first step in promoting patient safety by encouraging the FDA to better promote free and full dissemination of truthful and non-misleading scientific and medical information to healthcare professionals regarding FDA-approved medicines.
- **National Neurological Disease Surveillance System** – Section 1122, H.R. 292: This section, which was introduced with Rep. VanHollen (D-MD) will help improve and enhance the infrastructure at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in tracking the incidence and prevalence of neurological diseases, including Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's disease. The information will provide a foundation for evaluating and understanding many factors such as geographic clusters of diagnoses, variances in gender ratio, disease burden, and changes in health care practices.
- **Protect Continuing Physician Education and Patient Care Act** – Section 3041, H.R. 293: The 2010 Physician Payment Sunshine Act was intended to give transparency with regard to payments and other financial transfers of value to physicians. Congress outlined 12 specific exclusions from the reporting requirement to ensure that medical practice and patients care would not be harmed. Included in these exclusions was an exemption for educational materials that "directly benefit patients or are intended for patient use." However, in recent rules, CMS decided to reverse course and determined that both continuing medical education

2015 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

events and the distribution of medical text books and peer reviewed journals were subject to reporting. This section, which was introduced with Rep. DeFazio (D-OR) will help to minimize the negative impacts of the Sunshine Act on continuing medical education and patient care by exempting continuing medical education events and educational materials from reporting requirements.

- **Iran Nuclear Agreement:** On July 19, the Obama Administration submitted the text of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the Iran Nuclear Agreement, to Congress for congressional review. The JCPOA, an agreement between the United States, France, Britain, Germany, Russia, and China, requires Iran to comply with limitations on its nuclear program in exchange for broad sanctions relief. The Administration believes the JCPOA is the most effective way to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. However, the extensive sanctions relief will provide Iran with a windfall of resources to extend its influence in the region and continue its reckless foreign policy agenda. There are also two secret annexes negotiated between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) that have not been provided to Congress for review. In addition, the agreement does not address the four Americans being held unjustly in Iran. Because of this, I took a number of actions opposing the Iran Nuclear Agreement:
 - Cosponsored H.Res.367, a resolution disapproving of the JCPOA.
 - Cosigned a letter to President Obama requesting he submit to Congress the text of the two secret annexes negotiated between Iran and the IAEA .
 - Cosponsored H.R. 3199, a bill to prohibit sanctions relief by the United States with respect to Iran unless the Senate approves of the JPCOA as a treaty.
 - Cosigned a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry requesting clarification on how the Administration plans to implement measure 25 of the JCPOA requiring states to comply with sanctions relief .
 - Cosponsored H.R. 3457, the Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act, prohibiting sanctions relief for Iran until it pays the awards of U.S. court verdicts to victims of Iran-sponsored terrorism. This bill passed the House on October 1.
 - Cosponsored H.R. 3662, the Iran Terror Finance Transparency Act, requiring the Administration to certify individuals and organizations are not conducting financial transactions with the Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) or foreign terrorist organizations before de-listing from the sanctions list.
 - Cosponsored H.Res. 454, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President exceeded his authority in waiving sanctions on Iran and any lifting of sanctions goes against Congressional intent.
 - Cosponsored H.Res. 500, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Israel has the right to defend itself against Iranian hostility.
 - Cosigned a letter to the President requesting a delay in the implementation of the JCPOA and sanctions relief until the United Nations investigates Iran's ballistic missile tests from October and November that violated U.N. Security Council resolutions and measure 28 of the JCPOA .



2015 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Taiwan Support:** The 26th District has a large number of Taiwanese-Americans. I have always been a supporter of Taiwan and have cosponsored a number of resolutions confirming this support. This Congress, I cosponsored H.R. 1853, directing the President to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in Interpol, H.Con. Res. 76, expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan and its people deserve membership in the United Nations (U.N.), and H.Con.Res.88, reaffirming the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances. The House passed H.R. 1853 on November 2.
- **Ukraine elections:** Due to the ongoing conflict between the Ukrainian government and Russian separatists and the February 2014 annexation of Crimea by Russia, there was concern that local elections, scheduled for October 2015, would not be fair or be able to take place in certain parts of the country. Therefore, I cosponsored H.Res. 348, supporting the right of the people of Ukraine to freely elect their government and determine their future. This resolution passed the House on October 20. On October 25, Ukraine held local elections, and international election monitors declared the elections democratic, free and fair.

HELSINKI COMMISSION: COMMISSION ON SECURITY & COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The Helsinki Commission is an independent federal agency created in 1976 to monitor and encourage compliance with the Helsinki Final Act, or Helsinki Accords. The Commission consists of nine members from the U.S. Senate, nine members from the U.S. House of Representatives, and one member each from the Departments of State, Defense, and Commerce. The Commission convenes public hearings and briefings on OSCE-related issues, issues public reports, and organizes official delegations to participating states. The Commission includes 57 participating states and 11 partners for cooperation.

Ukraine elections

Over the past couple of years, unrest in Ukraine has led to the ousting of the government, the takeover of Crimea by Russia, and continued conflict in eastern Ukraine. In May 2014, I traveled with a Congressional delegation to observe Ukraine's presidential elections; Petro Poroshenko was elected Ukraine's fifth president. President Poroshenko addressed a joint session of Congress on September 18, 2014, where he thanked the U.S. for its support in fighting Russian aggression and separatists.

I also observed Ukraine's parliamentary elections in October 2014. I was the only member of Congress to travel to Ukraine to observe both the presidential and parliamentary elections following the unrest that toppled the government.

Hearings

This year I participated in several hearings focused on the refugee crisis in Europe resulting from the conflicts in the Middle East, Russian violations of the rule of law, and best practices for rescuing trafficking victims. In particular, I requested information from State Department officials on the acceptance rate for refugee applicants and unaccompanied alien children, as well as the process and procedures for determining whether a person is a threat to the United States or has been a victim of abuse. From these inquiries, it is clear that the Administration's policy and procedures are inefficient and inadequate. I will keep working to improve these programs in order to keep Americans safe.



Visit burgess.house.gov for additional information on the 26th District of Texas.

SPONSORED LEGISLATION OFFERED ON BEHALF OF THE RULES COMMITTEE ON THE HOUSE FLOOR

In 2015, I managed 9 Rules on the House floor, providing for the consideration of key pieces of legislation pertaining to health care and energy policy.

AMENDMENTS OFFERED IN THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

I supported key amendments to major pieces of legislation so that they could be considered by the full House, including having an amendment made in order to the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act that would require the Department of Defense (DOD) to report to congress on its progress in passing an audit. Despite a 1990 law requiring this action, the DOD has yet to achieve an audit and be accountable for its spending.

AMENDMENTS OFFERED ON THE HOUSE FLOOR

- **H.Amdt.359:** The House of Representatives accepted this amendment to the FY2016 Transportation Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill to add an additional \$4 million to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) operations and research account for use in the resolution of auto defects resulting in recalls. In a Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade hearing, the NHTSA Administrator, Dr. Mark Rosekind, indicated that NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation did not have adequate resources to identify all auto defects and mandate recalls. I offered this increase in funding to find a permanent solution to this problem. The amendment was agreed to by voice vote.
- **H.Amdt.823:** The House of Representatives accepted this amendment to the 2015 Highway Bill inserting National Highway Traffic Safety Administration authorizing language crafted by the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee, which I chair.
- **H.Amdt.192:** The House of Representatives accepted this amendment to the Energy & Water Appropriations bill to prohibit the enforcement of the 2007 Energy law which banned the sale of 90-watt incandescent light bulbs. This amendment has been accepted every year since 2011 and has prevented the Department of Energy from enforcing its ban on the sale of these light bulbs ever since, protecting consumer freedom and choice. The amendment prohibits the use of funds to implement or enforce provisions with respect to BPAR, BR and ER incandescent reflector lamps. An amendment numbered 17 is printed in the Congressional Record to prohibit the use of funds to implement or enforce section 430.32(x), with respect to light bulbs.
- **H.Amdt.632:** The House of Representatives accepted this amendment to the FY2016 Interior and Environmental Protection Agency Appropriations bill, prohibiting the use of funds by EPA to hire any new employees under title 42 of the Public Health Service Act or to transfer current employees from the GS pay scale to title 42 status.

AMENDMENTS OFFERED IN THE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

During a September markup in the Energy & Commerce Committee of H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015, I offered an amendment that would repeal the Department of Energy's ability to regulate and mandate federal standards for energy efficiency usage of consumer and commercial products including light bulbs, ceiling fans, HVAC units, boilers, radiators, refrigerators, and ranges. Although the amendment was ultimately not accepted, this served as an important marker for moving energy efficiency advancements toward a more purely free market system.

LETTERS THAT I AUTHORED IN 2015

- On January 08, I led a letter to Chairwoman of the Committee on House Administration, Rep. Candice Miller (R-MI), and Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration, Rep. Robert Brady (D-PA), requesting to re-register the Motorcycle Caucus as a Congressional Member Organization for the 114th Congress.
- On February 20, I led a letter to Chairwoman of the Committee on House Administration, Rep. Candice Miller (R-MI), and Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration, Rep. Robert Brady (D-PA), requesting to re-register the Congressional Health Caucus as a Congressional Member Organization for the 114th Congress.
- On March 23, I led a letter to Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Related Agencies, Rosa DeLauro (D-RI), to request the inclusion of \$28 million in the FY 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill for trauma and emergency care programs authorized under the Public Health Service Act.
- On March 23, I led a letter to Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Related Agencies, Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), urging the subcommittee to support the nation's health care workforce by including \$280 million for the Title VII health professions education and training programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration.
- On March 23, I led a letter to Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), urging the subcommittee to provide the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program with the FY 2016 funding support necessary to maintain the gains made under the program over the last decade.
- On April 22, I led a letter to the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, John Koskinen, regarding a recent surge in income tax identification theft, which impacts the ability of innocent taxpayers to file their taxes and receive their tax refunds on time and in full.
- On June 17, I led a letter to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Gina McCarthy, expressing their concerns with the Agency's proposal to reduce National Air Quality Standards for ground level ozone.
- On September 18, I led a letter to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Sylvia Burwell, to express support for the framework that CMS proposed for the implementation of certain features of under the "Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014."
- On November 16, I led a letter to the President of the United States, Barack Obama, to implore the halt of plans to allow Syrian refugees to be resettled anywhere in the United States and voicing his support of Governor Abbott's refusal to accept any refugees in Texas.
- On November 20, I led a letter to the Speaker of the House, Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), urging cooperation to prevent the harmful effects of two policies proposed by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS): Modified Stage 2/Stage 3 of the Meaningful Use (MU) program and the Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement (CJR) payment model.

LETTERS THAT I COSIGNED IN 2015

- On January 08, I signed a letter led by Rep. Matt Salmon (R-AZ) and joined by 54 other members of Congress to Speaker of the House, Rep. John Boehner (R-OH), voicing belief that President Obama violated the constitution and overstepped his legal authority by using the power of executive order to delay the deportation of approximately 5 million people living illegally in the U.S.
- On January 16, I signed a letter led by Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO) and 22 other members of Congress to Secretary of State John Kerry expressing concerns regarding the growing threat North Korea poses to the United States' national security.
- On January 23, I signed a letter led by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA) to Chairwoman of the Committee on House Administration, Rep. Candice Miller (R-MI), and Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration, Rep. Robert Brady (D-RI), requesting official recognition as a Congressional Member Organization for the "Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease" on which the four members will serve as co-chairs.
- On February 04, I signed a letter led by Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) and 31 other members of Congress to the President of the United States, Barack Obama, expressing concern over Russia's resumed aggression against Ukraine in clear violation of the Minsk agreement and international law.
- On February 18, I signed a letter led by Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) and Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) to Secretary of the Department of Energy, Ernest Moniz, regarding the Department's management of its excess uranium inventory and the impact of transfers on America's uranium mining, conversion, and enrichment industries.
- On February 19, I signed a letter led by Rep. Jim Bridenstine (R-OK) and joined by 32 other members of Congress to the members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary urging them to oppose the nomination of Loretta Lynch for Attorney General of the United States.
- On February 24, I signed a letter led by Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ), Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ), and Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY) and 9 other members of Congress to Speaker of the House, Rep. John Boehner (R-OH) reaffirming support for Israel and expressing appreciation for the invitation to welcome Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address both chambers of Congress.
- On March 04, I signed a letter led by Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) and Chairman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and joined by 235 other members of Congress to the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Todd Jones, expressing concern with the "ATF Framework for Determining Whether Certain Projectiles are 'Primarily Intended for Sporting Purposes' Within the Meaning of 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(17)(C)" issued on February 13.
- On March 09, I signed a letter led by Rep. Chris Smith (R-MJ) and joined by 2 other members of Congress urging the White House to ensure that the United States' national commitment to Alzheimer's remains engaged on the goal of eradicating this disease, including efforts to drive levels of support and collaboration by other nations.



LETTERS THAT I COSIGNED IN 2015

- On March 12, I signed a letter led by Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) and joined by 237 other members of Congress to the Acting Administrator of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to express concerns about the preliminary decisions CMS recently announced about Medicare Advantage (MA) payment changes for 2016 that will impact the healthcare choices and benefits of more than 16 million senior and individuals with disabilities.
- On March 20, I signed a letter led by Rep. Edward Royce (R-CA) and joined by 304 other members of Congress to President of the United States, Barack Obama, underscoring the grave and urgent issues that have arisen in the comprehensive nuclear agreements with Iran.
- On March 24, I signed a letter led by Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN) and joined by 14 other members of Congress to Speaker of the House, Rep. John Boehner (R-OH), the Majority Leader, Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), and the Majority Whip, Steve Scalise (R-LA), expressing strong support of H.R. 2, bipartisan legislation that would permanently repeal the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) and modernize how Medicare pays physicians.
- On March 24, I signed a letter led by Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN) and joined by 28 other members of Congress to Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), requesting the Subcommittee to rescind all funding for the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill for fiscal year 2016 and include report language prohibiting the Department of Health and Human Services from using appropriated funds to engage in any activities related to the IAPB process.
- On March 31, I signed a letter led by Rep. Vicky Hartlzer (R-MO) and 69 other members of Congress to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Sylvia Burwell, expressing disappointment with the report issued by the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) and certain recommendations for the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA).
- On April 15, I signed a letter led by Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) to the Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office, Gene Dodaro, regarding new DHS policy directives to extend and expand the existing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) programs and a new program that provides work authorization permits to an estimated five million undocumented immigrants residing in the US (DAPA).
- On April 20, I signed a letter led by Rep. Michael Conaway (R-TX) and joined by 68 other members of Congress to Secretary of the Department of Defense, Ashton Carter, regarding the Agency's failure to comply with the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, requiring Federal agencies to pass an annual audit. The DoD's Financial Improvement and Readiness (FIAR) Plan states that the DoD shall validate the audit readiness of all financial statements by September 30, 2017, in compliance with law.
- On April 23, I signed a letter led by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and joined by 28 other members of Congress to Secretary of the Department of Interior, Sally Jewell, expressing concern over the Draft Proposed 2017-2022 Five Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program (DPP), specifically over the premature restrictions placed on the proposed lease sale areas in the Atlantic, the permanent withdrawal of areas offshore Alaska, and the limited opportunities available under the program as proposed.
- On April 28, I signed a letter led by Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-KS) to Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), and Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Rep. Robert Brady (D-PA), offering support for robust Congressional oversight of the negotiation process.



LETTERS THAT I COSIGNED IN 2015

- On April 30, I signed a letter led by Rep. Bob Dold (R-IL) and joined by 276 other members of Congress to the Secretary of State, John Kerry, and Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Anthony Foxx, urging both parties to seek consultations with the governments of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in an effort to stem the tide of subsidized capacity that their state-owned airlines are deploying on international routes to the United States, in direct contravention to the U.S. Open Skies policy.
- On May 01, I signed a letter led by Rep. Joe Barton (R-PA) and Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and joined by 15 other members of Congress to the Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget expressing appreciation that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has just approved the first ever biosimilar product in United States history.
- On May 05, I signed a letter led by Senator David Vitter (R-LA) and joined by 25 other members of Congress to Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Sylvia Burwell, expressing commitment to protect access to breast cancer screening. The signers are concerned that the 2015 United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) draft recommendations can be interpreted as advising against screening in this age group and limit life-saving early detection.
- On May 14, I signed a letter led by Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) and Rep. Ted Yoho (R-FL) and joined by 29 other members of Congress to Administrator of FEMA, W. Craig Fugate, requesting that the agency halt the implementation of a new policy requiring states to address what the administration unilaterally deems as climate change before they are eligible for grant funding following natural disasters.
- On May 18, I signed a letter led by Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and joined by 20 other members of Congress to the Commissioner of the IRS, John Koskinen, asking the agency to review the tax-exempt status of the Clinton Foundation due to reports revealing the foundation failed report millions of dollars in grants from foreign governments that it had accepted while Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State and that is facilitated private business transactions between foreign entities.
- On June 11, I signed a letter led by Senator David Vitter (R-LA) and Rep. Charles Boustany (R-LA) and joined by 56 other members of Congress to the Secretary of the Department of the Army, John McHugh, to urge the Army to waive the eligibility rules in order to allow Staff Sergeant Thomas Florich, a soldier with the Louisiana Army National Guard killed when a Army Blackhawk helicopter crashed into the Gulf of Mexico in March 2015, to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.
- On June 12, I signed a letter led by Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA) and joined by 31 other members of Congress to the Acting Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Stephen Ostroff, expressing concerns on the FDA's implementation of the Drug Quality and Security Act (DQSA).
- On June 19, I signed a letter led by Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) and joined by 25 other members of Congress to the President of the United States, Barack Obama, expressing their concern regarding the current state of relations between the Administration and Israel following statements made by President Obama regarding Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.
- On June 24, I signed a letter led by Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D-TX) and joined by 76 other member of Congress to the USPS Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to recommend the issuance of a commemorative stamp to honor the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Texas Western College NCAA men's basketball championship.
- On July 09, I signed a letter led by Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) and joined by 206 other members of Congress to the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX), and the Chairman of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), expressing disapproval of the transfer of Apache helicopters from the National Guard to the Active Army, as part of the Army Restructuring Initiative.
- On July 17, I signed a letter led by Rep. John Mica (R-FL) and joined by 17 other members of Congress to the Secretary of the Department of Defense, Ashton Carter, requesting that the Department take immediate steps to allow mil-

LETTERS THAT I COSIGNED IN 2015

military personnel be armed at military installations.

- On July 20, I signed a letter led by Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and joined by 5 other members of Congress to the Secretary of the Department of Commerce, Penny Pritzker, expressing concern for a recent rule clarification by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) which has resulted in a number of companies and private funds being required to generate and report date they currently do not collect.
- On July 20, I signed a letter led by Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-KY) and joined by 18 other members of Congress to the President of the United States, Barack Obama, expressing concern over the implementation of the bipartisan Sunscreen Innovation Act and to ask the Administration for help to ensure that Americans have access to the latest sunscreens to prevent skin cancer.
- On July 22, I signed a letter led by Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and joined by 25 other members of Congress to the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the OMB, Howard Shelanski, regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) rule to regulate carbon dioxide from existing fossil fuel-fired power plants under the Clean Air Act.
- On July 22, I signed a letter led by Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) and joined by 12 other members of Congress to the Secretary of the Department of Defense, Ashton Carter, requesting that the Department take immediate steps to allow military personnel be armed at military installations.
- On July 27, I signed a letter led by Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) and joined by 50 other members of Congress to the President of the United States, Barack Obama, regarding the IRS' targeting of taxpayers on the basis of the political beliefs.
- On July 31, I signed a letter led by Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-KS) and joined by 93 other members of Congress to the President of the United States, Barack Obama, regarding the two side deals during the negotiation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran which have not been made available to Congress.
- On August 04, I signed a letter led by Rep. Joe Barton (R-PA) and joined by 12 other members of Congress to the Acting Administrator of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, Andy Slavitt, expressing serious concern for biosimilar reimbursements in the CMS 2016 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule.
- On August 18, I signed a letter led by Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO) and joined by 29 other members of Congress to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Gina McCarthy, regarding work conducted by the EPA at the Gold King Mine which directly led to the release of approximately 3 million gallons of contaminated water and sediment into Cement Creek and the Animas River in southwest Colorado.
- On September 15, I signed a letter led by Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) and joined by 56 other members of Congress to the Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, and the Senate Minority Leader, Harry Reid (D-KY), urging the Senate to modify its rules to a majority vote threshold of 51 senators to approve some legislation.
- On September 21, I signed a letter led by Rep. Susan Brooks (R-IN) and joined by 59 other members of Congress to the Secretary of State, John Kerry, expressing concerns over individual state sanctions within the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action between Iran and six negotiating parties.
- On September 29, I signed a letter led by Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA) and joined by 22 other members of Congress to the Acting Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Andy Slavitt, to express concerns regarding the CMS' proposal to cut Medicare payments to radiation oncology providers in the physician fee schedule calendar year 2016.
- On October 01, I signed a letter led by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and joined by 13 other members of Congress to the Chairperson of the U.S. Preventative Task Force, Albert Siu, expressing disappointment with the USPSTF recommen-

LETTERS THAT I COSIGNED IN 2015

dation that there is too little evidence to support autism spectrum disorder (ASD) screening for every child.

- On October 05, I signed a letter led by Rep. Jim Bridenstine (R-OK) and joined by 11 other members of Congress to the Secretary of the Department of Labor, Thomas Perez, to comment on the Department's proposed regulation to expand the definition of fiduciary investment advice under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974.
- On October 09, I signed a letter led by Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ) and joined by 21 other members of Congress to the President of the United States, Barack Obama, expressing concern regarding the Administration's plan to vet Syrian refugees entering into the United States, warning that the U.S. should not risk national security to superficially expedite the processing of Syrian refugees.
- On October 09, I signed a letter led by Senator John Thune (R-SD) and Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) to the Secretary of the Department of Commerce, Penny Pritzker, and the Chairwoman of the Federal Trade Commission, Edith Ramirez, regarding the importance of trans-Atlantic digital trade to economies in the EU and US.
- On October 20, I signed a letter led by Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TX) and Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) to the Acting Administrator of Centers for Medicare and Medicare Services, Andy Slavitt, expressing disagreement with the Agency's intent to increase the reimbursement rate for insurance companies participating in the transitional reinsurance program.
- On October 28, I signed a letter led by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and joined by 21 other members of Congress to the Administrator of the Office of Management and Budget, Howard Shelanski, expressing concern that Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services may be poised to finalize a regulation which would mark a significant reversal in the fight against the prescription opioid epidemic.
- On October 28, I signed a letter led by Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) and joined by 52 other members of Congress to the Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, regarding the appointment of an impartial special counsel to the FBI's investigation of former Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton's use of private, unsecured, email servers to conduct official government business.
- On November 04, I signed a letter led by Rep. Bill Flores (R-TX) and joined by 185 other members of Congress to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Gina McCarthy, expressing concern with the proposed 2016 Renewable Volume Obligations (RVO) under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) due to the adverse impacts on American consumers and the economy.
- On November 06, I signed a letter led by Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX) and joined by 30 other members of Congress to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Shaun Donovan, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Jo-Ellen Darcy, urging the prioritization of a study of coastal barriers to protect communities and commerce along the Texas Gulf Coast.
- On November 06, I signed a letter led by Rep. James McGovern (D-MA) and joined by 33 other members of Congress to the Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan (R-WI), in support of bringing a debate regarding an Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) to the House floor as quickly as possible.
- On November 12, I signed a letter led by Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) and joined by 36 other members of Congress to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Sylvia Burwell, expressing support for the Texas Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement Program 1115 demonstration waiver.



LETTERS LED AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING, AND TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE

- On February 05, I led a letter joined by Ranking Member Frank Palone, Jr. (D-NJ) to Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office, Gene Dodaro, requesting the signers be added as co-requesters of a GAO study of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's internal processes and readiness for adapting to technological advances in the automobile industry that had been requested by Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) on October 29, 2014.
- On June 12, I led a letter to the Chairwoman of the Federal Trade Commission, Edith Ramirez, requesting a confidential staff briefing of the FTC's antitrust investigation into Google.

LETTERS COSIGNED AS A MEMBER OF THE ENERGY & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

- On March 19, I joined a letter led by Chairman Joe Pitts (R-PA) and joined by 34 other members of the Energy and Commerce Committee to the Acting Administrator of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Andy Slavitt, to express disappointment with the proposed policy changes CMS announced to the Medicare Advantage (MA) program for 2016 that will impact seniors' choices and the ability for health plans to provide important benefits to more than 16 million seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- On May 28, I signed a letter led by Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and joined by 8 other members of the Energy and Commerce Committee to the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Dr. Mark Rosekind; CEO of the General Motors Company, Mary Barra; the President and CEO of the Ford Motor Company, Mark Fields; the CEO of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Sergio Marchionne; the CEO of Toyota North America, James Lenz; the President and CEO of Honda North America, Takuji Yamada; the Executive Vice President and Chairman of Nissan North America, Jose Munoz; the President and CEO of Hyundai Motor America, David Zuchowski; the President and CEO of Mazda North America Operations, James O'Sullivan; the President and CEO of Mitsubishi Motors North America, Ryujiro Kobashi; the President and CEO of Kia Motors America, Jang Won Sohn; the President and COO of Subaru of America, Thomas Doll; the SVP Americas and President and CEO of Volvo Cars North America, Lex Kerssemakers; the President and CEO of the Volkswagen Group of America, Michael Horn; the President of Audi of America, Scott Keogh; the President and CEO of Porsche Cars North America, Detlev von Platen; the CEO of Tesla Motors, Elon Musk; and the President and CEO of BMW of North America, Ludwig Willisch, regarding the security weaknesses and reliability of new and developing technologies being incorporated into automobiles and the inherent potential for cyber threats that invites.
- On June 09, I joined a letter led by Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and joined by 3 other members of the Energy and Commerce Committee to Google CEO Larry Page; Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella; Apple CEO Tim Cook; and Mozilla Executive Chairwoman Winifred Mitchell



LETTERS COSIGNED AS A MEMBER OF THE ENERGY & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Baker; regarding questions concerning digital certificates used to ensure the confidentiality and security of sensitive information transmitted through Internet transactions. The signers have serious concerns regarding Certificate Authorities (CA) unfettered authority to issue certificates when the CA is owned and operated by a government and seeks the views of these organizations on the significance of this potential weakness and whether there are changes that could be implemented to protect the integrity and trustworthiness of digital certificates.

- On July 09, I signed a letter led by Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and joined by 6 other members of the Energy and Commerce Committee to the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Richard Cordray, and the Chairwoman of the Federal Trade Commission, Edith Ramirez, expressing concern about preventing data breaches, as well as the efficacy of measures to protect consumers whose personal information has been compromised by a breach.
- On July 17, I signed a letter led by Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) to the President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Cecile Richards, requesting information and a briefing regarding the organization's practices relating to fetal tissue collection and sale or donation.
- On July 20, I signed a letter led by Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and joined by 4 other members of the Energy and Commerce Committee to the Comptroller of the General Accountability Office, Gene Dodaro, concerning numerous data breaches involving Americans' personal information which can be used by criminals to perpetuate identity theft, possibly leading for serious financial consequences for victims.
- On September 17, I signed a letter led by Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and joined by three senior Republicans on the Energy and Commerce Committee of Congress to the President of the United States, Barack Obama, urging him to seek justice for the Americans harmed by the 2007-2008 heparin contaminated in China during discussions with Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- On September 17, I signed a letter led by Rep. Renee Ellmers (R-NC) and joined by 58 other members of Congress to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Shaun Donovan, and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Sylvia Burwell, urging them to refrain from finalizing Meaningful Use Stage 3 and work to refocus the program to better serve patients and providers who care for them.
- On December 10, I signed a letter led by Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and joined by 7 other members of the Energy and Commerce Committee to the Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office, Gene Dodaro, requesting the agency conduct a study to assess the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) regulatory pathway for reviewing generic versions of non-biologic complex drugs (NBCDs).



MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS



SNAPSHOT OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 825 newspaper articles or blogs mentions
- 59 press releases issued
- 49 e-newsletters sent
- 73 YouTube videos posted
- 49 weekly video addresses published
- 61 radio interviews
 - 45 appearances on local stations
 - 16 appearances on nationally syndicated shows
- 40 television interviews
 - 13 on local stations
 - 9 on Fox Business
 - 5 on Fox News
 - 8 on MSNBC
 - 2 on CBS
 - 2 on NBC
- 87% increase in Twitter followers
- 81% increase in Facebook engagement



PRESS RELEASES

In 2015, I sent out 59 press releases. Below are a few examples:

- [Burgess Introduces Bill to Ensure Doctors Have Access to Educational Materials](#), January 13, 2015
- [Burgess Introduces Legislation to Further Understanding of Neurological Diseases](#), January 14, 2015
- [Burgess Introduces Bill to Ensure DOD Has Sole Drone Strike Authority](#), January 22, 2015
- [Burgess' Priorities Included in 21st Century Cures Initial Discussion Document](#), January 27, 2015
- [Texas House Republicans Joint Statement in Response to Rules Committee Exchange Between Burgess and Hastings](#), February 3, 2015
- [Burgess Reintroduces Health Savings Accounts Legislation](#), March 2, 2015
- [Burgess Leads Bipartisan Group in Introducing Bill to Improve Access to Maternity Care](#), March 3, 2015
- [Burgess introduces bill to repeal SGR formula, preserve Medicare integrity](#), March 19, 2015
- [Burgess leads coalition to strengthen Medicare, urges Senate action](#), March 26, 2015
- [Burgess hails Senate passage of permanent 'Doc Fix'](#), April 15, 2015
- [Burgess demands IRS analysis of income tax fraud](#), April 22, 2015
- [NDAA approved by House, includes Burgess Pentagon audit amendment](#), May 15, 2015
- [Burgess joins bicameral coalition for fiscal responsibility, student standards at medical schools](#), May 19, 2015
- [House approves Burgess NHTSA amendment to expedite permanent Takata recall solution](#), June 4, 2015
- [Burgess Statement on King v Burwell decision exceeds rule of law](#), June 25, 2015
- [House passes 21st Century Cures Act, includes 8 Burgess health priorities](#), July 10, 2015
- [Burgess statement on Iran nuclear agreement](#), July 14, 2015
- [Burgess Leads Letter to HHS on Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria Policy](#), September 22, 2015
- [Burgess Introduces Legislation to Modernize CBO Scoring](#), October 1, 2015
- [Burgess Statement on Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015](#), October 28, 2015
- [Burgess Statement on President's Rejection of Keystone Pipeline](#), November 6, 2015
- [Burgess Statement on Paris Attacks](#), November 16, 2015
- [Burgess Statement on Funding of Lewisville Dam](#), December 16, 2015

Stay connected with me on my social media channels.



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youtube.com/MichaelCBurgessMD

WEEKLY VIDEO ADDRESSES

- [Year-End Report](#) January 9, 2015
- [Dept. of Homeland Security Spending Bill](#) January 14, 2015
- [SOTU Recap](#) January 23, 2015
- [Update on the Crisis at the Texas Border](#) January 30, 2015
- [Repealing Obamacare](#) February 6, 2015
- [Introducing a Flat Tax](#) February 13, 2015
- [Lake Dallas District Office](#) February 18, 2015
- [Texas Independence Day](#) February 26, 2015
- [Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Address to Congress](#) March 6, 2015
- [Expanding the Use of Health Savings Accounts](#) March 13, 2015
- [President Obama's Dangerous Iran Negotiations](#) March 19, 2015
- [Five Year Anniversary of Obamacare](#) March 26, 2015
- [Tax Week](#) April 16, 2015
- [The IRS must protect your information](#) April 23, 2015
- [The first 100 days](#) May 1, 2015
- [The No Armed Drones Act](#) May 7, 2015
- [National Police Week](#) May 15, 2015
- [Honoring the fallen](#) May 22, 2015
- [NDAA military force amendments](#) May 29, 2015
- [Takata airbag recalls](#) June 5, 2015
- [Voting against Trade Promotion Authority](#) June 12, 2015
- [Tropical Depression Bill](#) June 19, 2015
- [Frisco/Little Elm Town Hall](#) June 26, 2015
- [Strengthening our Armed Forces](#) July 4, 2015
- [21st Century Cures bill passes House](#) July 10, 2015
- [The Iran Deal](#) July 17, 2015
- [Investigating Planned Parenthood](#) July 24, 2015



WEEKLY VIDEO ADDRESSES

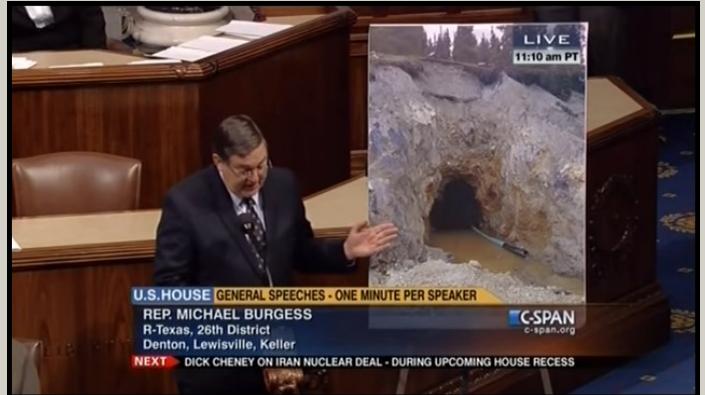
- [Ex-Im Bank reauthorization vote](#) July 31, 2015
- [Keller/Ft. Worth and Denton Town Hall recap](#) August 6, 2015
- [The REINS Act](#) August 14, 2015
- [Cyber security](#) August 21, 2015
- [Denco 9-1-1](#) August 28, 2015
- [Cures Event at UT Southwestern](#) September 4, 2015
- [Iran Nuclear Agreement](#) September 11, 2015
- [Constitution Day](#) September 18, 2015
- [The Pope's Visit to the U.S.](#) September 25, 2015
- [House of Representatives Leadership Race](#) October 2, 2015
- [Update on Speaker of the House Elections](#) October 9, 2015
- [Lifting the Crude Oil Export Ban](#) October 16, 2015
- [Fighting Fraud Against the Elderly](#) October 23, 2015
- [New Speaker of the House & Budget Reform](#) October 30, 2015
- [U.S. & Europe Privacy Agreement](#) November 6, 2015
- [Honoring Our Veterans](#) November 11, 2015
- [Syrian Refugee Resettlement](#) November 20, 2015
- [Gathering to Give Thanks](#) November 25, 2015
- [Yes to Energy & A Limited Government](#) December 4, 2015
- [Protecting Americans At All Costs](#) December 11, 2015
- [No Fly List & 2nd Amendment Right](#) December 18, 2015
- [Christmas](#) December 24, 2015



FLOOR STATEMENTS

Here are some of the floor statements I made this year.

- [Immigration Reform](#) January 13, 2015
- [Medicare Reform](#) April 14, 2015
- [Anniversary of Ft. Hood Shooting](#) April 22, 2015
- [King v. Burwell Supreme Court Decision](#) June 16, 2015
- [Manufacturing Day](#) September 16, 2015
- [Gold King Mine](#) September 9, 2015
- [Paris Attacks](#) November 16, 2015



MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Here is some footage from events from this year.

- [Denton Town Hall](#) August 3, 2015
- [Fort Worth/Keller Town Hall](#) August 5, 2015
- [Special Guest at Texas Representative Stephanie Klick Town Hall](#) November 16, 2015

AWARDS RECEIVED

I am honored to have been awarded credentials from organizations and groups for the common-sense and pro-growth work I do on behalf of North Texas. A few of the awards I received this year come from the following groups and associations: The American Conservative Union, American Society of Transplantation, National Kidney Foundation, U.S. Business and Industry Council, Health IT Now, Foundation to Eradicate Duchenne, Parkinson's Action Network, Texas Physical Therapy Association, Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association, American Medical Association.



TELEVISION APPEARANCES

Here are a few of the 40 television interviews that I gave this year:

- [FOX Kelly Files: Executive Amnesty](#)
February 20, 2015
- [FOX 4 News - Dallas-Fort Worth: SGR Repeal](#)
April 8, 2015
- [FOX Business' The Willis Report: Takata Air Bag Recall](#)
May 28, 2015
- [Comcast Newsmakers: 21st Century Cures Act](#)
June 15, 2015
- [FOX Business Varney & Company: ISIS Attacks in France](#)
June 28, 2015
- [FOX Business : King v Burwell Supreme Court Decision](#)
June 29, 2015
- [NBC 5 Lone Star Politics: Leadership Race](#)
October 4, 2015
- [WFAA "Inside Texas Politics:"](#)
October 18, 2015
- [MSNBC's All In with Chris Hayes: Leadership Elections](#)
October 21, 2015
- [MSNBC's All In with Chris Hayes: Obama's ISIS Strategy](#) November 16, 2015
- [FOX Business Risk & Reward: San Bernardino](#)
December 11, 2015



26th Congressional District

2015

YEAR-END REPORT

Working for North Texas



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