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Congressman Discusses Health Care Reform

FORT WORTH, Texas – Exactly one week prior to election day, students at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law had the opportunity to hear about one of this year’s hot topics – health care reform – from Congressman Michael Burgess, of the 26th District of Texas.

Offering the unique perspective of a congressman and physician, Burgess addressed a group of more than 50 students, faculty and staff during a lunchtime presentation at the law school. He told attendees that he initially got involved with health care legislation after recognizing the changes that were taking place around him when he was a practicing physician.

“By not paying attention, I was endorsing everything that was happening,” Burgess said.

Burgess provided an overview of the health care policies being proposed by presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain, then went on to talk about various attempts at health care reform that have been proposed throughout recent years. He discussed the long process these proposals go through and pointed out that “regardless of who wins [the election], Congress is going to have its own ideas” about health care.

Following his discussion, Burgess took questions from attendees, which included inquiries about the proposals from each presidential candidate, and other possibilities for health care reform. Burgess was optimistic about the advances being made in medicine and health care.

“Medicine is in a transformational time,” Burgess said. “There is great promise in what health care has to offer.”

Burgess currently sits on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which is responsible for health care, the safety of food and drugs, energy and power legislation. He also serves as a senior health care advisor to the John McCain for President Campaign. He was invited to speak at the law school through a joint effort of the Texas Wesleyan Health Law Society and the Texas Wesleyan Law Republicans.

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