



Congressman Dave Weldon Attacks Youthful Members of His Constituency

On May 9th, 2007, "Do Nothing Dave" responded to a letter to the editor in the Vero Beach County Press Journal. The letter his office referenced was published on April 26th in the same publication, was written by the Vice President of the Indian River County Young Democrats, and highlighted many fallacies of an opinion piece written by "Do Nothing Dave" published on April 7th.

In "Do Nothing Dave's" original opinion piece, after a few paragraphs of a false and disingenuous analogy meant to scare the public, reference was then made to the "insidious Alternative Minimum Tax".

Unfortunately, in "Do Nothing Dave's" letter of May 9th, our incumbent Congressman verbally assaulted and attacked youthful members of his constituency in a vain and calculating fashion.

"Do Nothing Dave", in this letter, is directly responsible for:

- 1) Falsely representing his own positions by stating "never once did the congressman suggest ... he wanted to repeal the AMT". If something is originally characterized as categorically "insidious", does that not represent the opinion that it should be removed?
- 2) Falsely accusing the "head of the Indian River Young Democrats" of authoring the letter. It was written by the Vice President of the Indian River County Young Democrats, though both are young adults in his constituency.
- 3) Falsely accusing the youthful constituents of using "purposely confusing misinformation". No factual errors were in the original letter, though "Do Nothing Dave" maintained in a scathing fashion that there were errors.
- 4) Falsely supporting his arguments by exploiting a misprint by the Vero Beach Press Journal. The original letter referenced dates for votes as "1/07", which the Press Journal changed to "Jan. 7", when actually it should have been left unchanged or changed to "Jan. 2007".
- 5) Failing to address the concerns expressed by the youthful members of his constituency. Attacking the messenger instead of addressing the substance of the message is a tactic that no longer easily deceives Americans.
- 6) Singling out the youthful members of his constituency for such attacks. There were many other letters disputing "Do Nothing Dave's" original opinion piece published for more than 2 weeks beforehand, though no response or reference to those other letters were ever made.



7) Falsely accusing the letter's author of being a "party operative (who) got his talking points all mixed up". Well, let's be frank. It would be refreshing if we had any kind of talking points for the Democratic Party at our level. Unfortunately it is something that seems to have become *modus operandi* for "Do Nothing Dave" to expect of anyone questioning his failed policies and votes.

8) Failing to address the other voting failures that were contained in the critique of "Do Nothing Dave's" time in office; this includes voting to maintain tax cuts and subsidies to oil companies, voting to keep the government from negotiating for lower prescription drug prices, voting to keep the minimum wage at a shameful level well below the poverty line, and voting to cut support of welfare, child support, and student lending programs.

By singling out the youthful member of his constituency, "Do Nothing Dave" has merely insulted all of the members of his constituency. The blatant false rhetoric and misrepresentation of facts, and the distortion of the truth and personal attacks against the unfortunate messenger, have shown clearly why it is time we have a change in our local Congressional representative.

It is our direct family members and friends that serve our country in Iraq and Afghanistan. And, it is done even now with the knowledge that similar deceptions and lies were used to inevitably subject our valiant soldiers to the daily terrors they experience. We are insulted to witness such a spectacle from our incumbent Congressional representative.

At the very least, "Do Nothing Dave" owes a personal and sincere apology to both these young members of his constituency, and all members of the public subjected to his misinformation. Even so, this is probably not enough for him to warrant keeping his current job representing us in Congress. We expect no less of a man that is supposed to represent the interests of all members of our beautiful corner of Florida.

Indian River County Young Democrats
Saturday, May 12th, 2007