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Letter to the editor: Weldon not looking out for the middle class

April 26, 2007

Congressmen Dave Weldon's column a few weeks ago on the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) gave some readers the impression he's looking out for the middle class. It's important to look at the facts.

Some 89 percent of the people paying the AMT make over \$100,000 annually, and 55 percent make over \$200,000. Therefore, the bulk of the AMT revenue continues to come from high-income households as it was intended. Reform is needed to make sure the middle class who are affected do get some relief or are exempted from the AMT.

Describing the President Bush tax cuts as for the middle class is humorous. The lower taxes on dividends and the elimination of the estate tax mostly helps the rich. The average tax cut benefit the middle 20 percent of the country gets is \$647, while the top 1 percent average tax cut benefit is \$35,000. So, by repealing the AMT and continuing to extend the Bush tax cuts, the upper class benefits the most, not the middle class.

It's also important to look at Weldon's record lately in Congress: Voted no to repeal the tax cuts to oil companies on Jan. 7, voted no to allow the government to negotiate lower prescription drug prices on Jan. 7, voted no to increase the federal minimum wage on Jan. 7, voted yes to cut \$40 billion from welfare, child support and student lending programs on Feb. 6. We need a congressman who will represent the middle class of Florida's District 15.

Kevin Sawnick
Vice president
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