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Letter to the editor: Democrats will never stick 'middle class' with the AMT

April 11, 2007

The Alternative Minimum Tax does not apply to 97 percent of taxpayers, so they know little about it. Therefore, it is easy for Dave Weldon in his guest column (April 7) to distort the facts to mislead people into thinking it might be applied to them.

The AMT applies to the very wealthiest individuals who use tax loopholes to get out of paying their fair share of taxes. It was not, is not, and the Democrats will never allow, it to be applied to what most of us would call the "middle class." Under some circumstances it could apply to a person with an "adjusted gross income" of \$75,000 but 90 percent of us can only dream of earning that much money. The AMT is applied mostly to what is known as "unearned income," and most of us can only dream of being wealthy enough to have "unearned income."

Less than 5 percent of taxpayers have benefited for Republican tax cuts like lower taxes on dividends and deducting sales taxes from federal taxes. Democrats fought hard to get an increase in the per child tax credit and to get the marriage tax penalty eliminated; they will never allow them to be reinstated.

The AMT worked well from the time Republican President Richard Nixon created it 1969 until the Republicans in Congress, working with this President Bush, began expanding the income tax cuts in 2001. Today, their wealthy friends are paying the AMT, and they want it eliminated.

I would like to pay \$1 million a year in income taxes. Am I greedy? I will settle for just being wealthy enough to have to pay the AMT.

Richard D. Scurlock
Vero Beach

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