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Letter to the editor: Weldon spars with Democrats over tax-and-spending issues

May 9, 2007

Press Journal readers were treated to some purposely confusing misinformation in a recent letter to the editor from the head of Indian River Young Democrats. Space only allows me to address two.

The writer referenced the Alternative Minimum Tax and implied that Rep. Dave Weldon wanted to repeal the AMT. Never once did the congressman suggest so in his April 7 guest column, and for the writer to imply otherwise is simply more false rhetoric from the left.

In fact, Dr. Weldon said that over the years Democrats have thwarted Republican attempts to permanently "rid the middle-class of this looming AMT."

The Democratic writer stated, "Reform is needed to make sure the middle class who are affected do get some relief or are exempted from the AMT." So I'm at a loss as to where we differ on this matter.

Clearly, this party operative got his talking points all mixed up.

Had it not been for the Republican AMT relief, more than 15 million middle-class families, including a family of four earning \$75,000 per year, would have paid the AMT tax. If the Republican tax relief is repealed as Democrats plan, the AMT will spread to nearly 20 million middle-class families this year and 30 million by 2010.

The writer also declared that on Feb. 6, Dr. Weldon "voted yes to cut \$40 billion from welfare, child support and student lending programs." Since there were no votes that day relating to welfare, I suspect he was talking about the Deficit Reduction Act back in February 2006. The DRA slowed Medicaid's growth rate from 7.7 percent a year to 7.5 percent a year. Only in a liberal world is a 7.5 percent increase year after year considered a cut.

It's time the Democratic Party treat the voters with better respect.

Kurt Heath
press secretary
Rep. Dave Weldon
Washington, D.C.

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