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[LETTER]
Ross Has Heavy Hand Online

Published: Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 12:41 a.m.
Last Modified: Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 12:41 a.m.

Re: "Ross: Spending Cuts Needed to Reduce Deficit," Jan. 2. Your article begins with this paraphrase: "Rep. Dennis Ross would have voted against legislation to stop from going over the fiscal cliff even if it meant going over it."

Although I agree with his fiscal-cliff no vote, this time, here is a canard: Because he voted yes on four of six pork-laden appropriation bills in his tenure, Ross is not conservative. Appropriation bills are huge and dwarf all other spending.

However, when I tried to express my views on this and other political matters on his Facebook page, he deleted all my comments and blocked me from posting.

Were this his personal Facebook page or Twitter feed, this would be immoral, but not illegal. However, so long as I don't threaten, harass or use vulgar language, I have a right to post on his public page, distinct from a private or personal page. He's violating free-speech rights and, by extension, First Amendment rights of redress.

Most readers know that, while I have strong opinions, I've never gotten banned from The Ledger's forums, so I'm clearly not a troublemaker.

Furthermore, if it were "just Gordon" complaining, you might give Ross the benefit of the doubt.

However, many people are making complaints that Ross unjustly blocked them from these social networks.

If Ross is not justified in this, then why is he doing it? To silence those who disagree with legislative requests of rich campaign contributors?

GORDON WAYNE WATTS

Lakeland

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HARRY'S

SHAVE GOODBYE TO YOUR OLD RAZOR

Reminder: AOL will never ask you for your password or billing information.

Subject: Dennis Ross deserves credit where due (300-word letter)

Date: 1/25/2013 5:07:13 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time

From: Gwww1210@aol.com

To: voice@theledger.com, dross71803@aol.com

CC: glenn.marston@theledger.com, bill.ruffy@theledger.com, LedgerEditorials@Yahoo.com, dennis.ross.376@gmail.com, dennis.ross.376@facebook.com, john.boehner.7@facebook.com, johnboehner@facebook.com,

Gwww1210@aol.com, Gwww12102002@yahoo.com, gwww1210@gmail.com, katie.hughes@mail.house.gov

BCC: gordonwaynewatts@hotmail.com, gordonwaynewatts@facebook.com

Sent from the Internet (Details)

RE: <http://www.theledger.com/article/20130124/EDIT02/130129635/1037/edit02?Title=Ross-Has-Heavy-Hand-Online>

Re: "Ross Has Heavy Hand Online," Jan. 24. Thank you for printing my letter.

Normally, it's unethical to consider writing another letter on the same subject right away, but my Christian faith has said that I must 'do the right thing' due to an unusual & unexpected update on this matter.

Not only has Congressman Dennis Ross' staff unblocked me (I was notified of this by phone at 11:59am on Wednesday the 23rd), but also, since it might appear as if Ross acted 'in reaction' to my letter, I wanted to point out that my letter published AFTER the fact, thus he couldn't have reacted to it.

While the actual reasons for blocking me & others still remain unclear, I give Ross and his staff credit where credit is due: Congressman Ross has no doubt seen my posts on his Facebook page, www.facebook.com/dennis.ross.376 but not objected or blocked me subsequently, so he's indeed open to hearing other views.

Dr. Jay Dennis, the pastor at my church (1st Baptist Church at the Mall, Lakeland) has said it's our duty to not only speak against bad actions of leaders but also to praise them for good works; I concur.

While I'm still very troubled at Ross' 'yea' votes on 4 of 6 of the appropriations votes I could locate (there may be more?), I can honestly say that, after attending both of his Town Hall Meetings yesterday (Thr 24 Jan 2013), I was impressed that he seems genuinely concerned, a very good listener, and very-well educated (with specific facts) on many issues.

Moving forward, I'm hopeful that Ross' staff will work with constituents who were erroneously blocked from Facebook or Twitter, that constituents would be patient –and that Ross would simply become 'Dr. No' on ANY and ALL new spending bills.

GORDON WAYNE WATTS

Lakeland

Cache: <http://GordonWayneWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/Ledger-letter-ROSS-Thursday-01-24-2013.JPG>

Cache: <http://GordonWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/Ledger-letter-ROSS-Thursday-01-24-2013.JPG>

PS: Dennis, I realise you told me once a long time ago not to send you any more email (at your personal email address, here), and I respect your personal space, but (I should hope to make this "one-time" exception here) since I had hit you so hard online (the sword is mightier than the pen!) -and given your reputation a "black eye," I felt it was only right of me to keep you "in the loop" in real time about this matter (my letter above) that impacted you directly -and assure you that, while I'm human, and subject to err, my intentions are good here.

Save

Keep As New

Delete

skip the counter
and get **FREE** rental days
JOIN FREE
Hertz

Republican Congressman breaks with party, admits college loans deserve bankruptcy:

Rep. Dennis A. Ross, of Lakeland, Fla., bravely admits that college students deserve bankruptcy safety net, like all other loans afford, and affirms the small-government view that we need to “get The Government out of the business of loaning the money,” but has yet to introduce or cosponsor legislation to address either problem

By Gordon Wayne Watts, Editor-in-Chief, *The Register* - Published: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 12:34 p.m., -UPDATED: Friday, August 05, 2016 at 12:52 p.m. (EST-EDT)



A 'Conservative' solution to the Higher Education mess

LAKELAND— In what may indicate a shift in public opinion on the contentious College Debt issue^[1], Representative Dennis Ross, representing Florida's 15th Congressional district (including Lakeland) bravely admitted in a TownHall Meeting^[2] that if student borrowers can't repay their loans, we should 'go back' to our prior U.S. Bankruptcy Laws, for, among other reasons, because “we're not really doing a good service, either way...by making them over-indebted for their Education.”^[2] Ross breaks ranks with the GOP in this candid admission. For example, H.R. 1674, the “Private Student Loan Bankruptcy Fairness Act of 2015,”^[3] a bill by Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN-9th), has 40 cosponsors, all Democrat. Typically most or all cosponsors of such bills are Democrat^[4], but both parties (who have, at times, had complete control of the House, Senate, & Oval Office) are reluctant to allow bankruptcy discharge for college loans like Credit Card users, banks, or the “über-rich” regularly do.

Ross made these statements^[2] in a “TeleTownHall” meeting (THM), back on 05-21-2014 (nearly 2 years ago), but has yet to introduce bills^[5] offering relief to suffering students. This is troubling because Ross claims to support such legislation, yet hasn't acted on his belief. A review is in order:



U.S. Rep. Dennis A. Ross representing Florida's 15th Congressional district in Central Florida, including parts of Polk & Hillsborough counties

ROSS SHOWS INTEGRITY

- (1) While Ross was a state lawmaker, he & Rep. Don Brown of DeFuniak Springs, were the only 2 reps voting against the property insurance bill making Citizens the largest property insurer in Florida. It's believed that they were stripped of their posts as council chairmen by then-Speaker Marco Rubio for voting to protect taxpayers from liability.^[6]
- (2) While, former Rep. Adam Putnam voted for the unpopular T.A.R.P. & Stimulus bailouts^[7], Ross has only voted for about half the Appropriation bills that “overspend.”^[8]
- (3) We remember my infamous 'Heavy Hand' letter to the editor^[9], complaining of Ross blocking people from his social media. However, what most don't know is that his office unblocked me about 12 hours BEFORE my letter published. Since they didn't have a heads up, their unblocking wasn't “reactionary,” but rather because Ross & staff have integrity. (He fired a staffer for this overstep.) While I sometimes disagree with Ross on things (and am human & make mistakes, myself), nonetheless, after my letter published, and it became apparent to me that Ross' help may have been viewed as “reactionary,” I wrote a follow-up letter, as documented in footnote nine^[9], below, admitting that his actions weren't “in response” to the letter (e.g., “pressure” from the ‘bad press’ from the newspaper to do the right thing), since he hadn't seen it: Ross' actions could only have been for the right motives. (4) Moreover, some might wonder if Ross merely “claimed” that he supported “uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies,” as guaranteed by Art.I, Sec.8, Cl.4, of the U.S. Constitution, merely to “put on a good show,” and pretend to represent me. Well, Ross may be far from perfect, but he doesn't “put on a show” to pretend. I know this to be a fact because I went to one Town Hall Meeting in Plant City, Fla., also in his district, and I asked him if he supported 2nd Amendment rights for teachers and college students/professors (like Utah, Texas, and the nation-state of Israel commonly afford them). Even in spite of the fact he was speaking before a “Red State” Conservative group of Conservative constituents, he had the courage to disagree with me in open forum, publicly! So, “right or wrong,” Ross has no compunction or fear of speaking his mind on an issue. Thus, when he hosted the tele-TownHall meeting documented in reference two^[2], below, he was sincere, genuine, and 100% truthful in his views (which, thank God, agree with mine, on the subject-matter of college loans' Constitutional bankruptcy rights). (5) Lastly, Ross knows he'll receive tough questions from me in THM's, but doesn't shy away from calling on me (as this^[2] YouTube vid documents). Thus, we know that, while human, nonetheless, **Ross has honour & integrity.**

As Gallup^[10] documents, Congress is only about one level more popular than ISIS, the Taliban, or Al Qaeda, yet the reelection rate^[10] is almost 100%: We tend to think highly of our 'own' Congressman. A recent Princeton study^[11] finds: “that majorities of the American public actually have little influence over the policies our government adopts” –and: “even overwhelmingly large pro-change majorities, with 80 percent of the public favoring a policy change, got that change only about 43 percent of the time.”

Even Ross, whose record is above average (pro-life, 2nd amendment supporter, once rated “most conservative” congressman^[12]), has been described as a 'RINO' by Conservative Review.^[13] He admits College Loans deserve bankruptcy^[2], but has yet to introduce or cosponsor such legislation.^[5] Does he only represent the rich?



CAMPAIGN TIPS ABOUT DONATE

Support Student Loan Forgiveness

Petition by [Student Debt Crisis](#)

To be delivered to Rep. John Kline (MN-2), The United States House of Representatives, The United States Senate, and President Barack Obama

Total outstanding student loan debt in America is expected to exceed \$1.4 TRILLION this year. Millions of hardworking, taxpaying, educated Americans are being crushed under the weight of their educational debts, while the economy continues to sputter. Support a REAL economic stimulus and jobs plan. Support Student Loan Forgiveness.

There are currently 1,203,666 signatures. NEW goal - We need 2,000,000 signatures!

PETITION BACKGROUND

Since 1980, average tuition for a 4-year college education has increased an astounding 800%. Since 1999, average student loan debt has shamefully increased by over 500%!

In 2010, total outstanding student loan debt exceeded total outstanding credit card debt in America for the first time ever. In 2012, total outstanding student loan debt exceeded \$1 Trillion. Today, we have over 1.3 TRILLION dollars in overall student loan debt and the number is climbing out-of-control.

In short, student loan debt has become the fastest growing financial crisis in America. If we do absolutely nothing, the entire economy will eventually come crashing down again- just as it did when the housing bubble popped. This ever-growing crisis has put our country on an unsustainable course towards financial oblivion.

As a result of more than 30 years of treating higher education as an individual

SIGN THIS PETITION

Name*
Email*
United States
Address
Address (cont.)

Date and Time Properties

Date & Time | Time Zone | Internet Time

Date: August 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Time: 1:30:29 PM

Current time zone: Eastern Daylight Time

OK Cancel Apply

EMBED THIS PETITION

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src="http://petitions.moveon.org
/embed/widget.html?v=3&
name=support-the-student-loan"
class="moveon-petition"
id="petition-embed" width="300px"
height="500px"></iframe>
```

Note: This petition is a project of Student Debt Crisis and MoveOn.org. By signing, you agree to receive email messages from Student Debt Crisis, MoveOn Political Action, and MoveOn Civic Action. You may unsubscribe at any time. [privacy policy]

EMBED THIS PETITION

```
<iframe
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As a result of more than 30 years of treating higher education as an individual commodity, rather than a public good and an investment in our collective future, those buried under the weight of their student loan debt are not buying homes or cars, not starting businesses or families, and they're not investing, inventing, innovating or otherwise engaged in any of the economically stimulative activities that we need all Americans to be engaged in.

Student loan debt has an undeniable and significant effect on economic growth. Forgiving student loan debt directly addresses this enormous boot on the neck of the middle class. represents a glimmer of hope for millions of Americans who, with each passing day, find that the American Dream is more and more out of reach.

Therefore, we, the undersigned, respectfully request that Congress bring forward serious legislation to forgive student loan debt and commit to solving the student debt crisis this year.

CURRENT PETITION SIGNERS

1203666. **Kylie** from Collierville, TN signed this petition on Aug 3, 2016.

1203665. **michele irwin** from Larkspur, CO signed this petition on Aug 3, 2016.

Trump can bankrupt 6x and we can't even refi our loans to a lower rate. SHAME!

1203664. **Nisa Sheikh** from Somerset, NJ signed this petition on Aug 3, 2016.

1203663. **netelndray** from HoNNew7Ou Leawus, Cenge, BB signed this petition on

Date and Time Properties dialog box showing Date (August 2016) and Time (1:29:24 PM) settings.