



House GOP tax cuts ignore crucial funding

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Your April 19 editorial, "Congress' New York tax: The alternative minimum tax could hurt the state's middle class disproportionately," was right on target in its conclusion that "paying for investors' tax relief by taking the money from middle class families is unfair and discriminatory."

Your editorial noted that "both Republicans and Democrats in Congress say the nation can't afford both forms of tax relief at a time when budget deficits are at record levels and the war in Iraq rages on." What your editorial failed to mention was that while both Republicans and Democrats express concern about the deficit when talking about relief from the alternative minimum tax, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives has thrown concern for the deficit out the window in order to propose additional tax cuts in their budget resolution to the tune of \$228 billion over the next five years.

In order to make room for these tax cuts, domestic discretionary funding, resources for things like education, veterans' health care and medical research, would be cut to the bone.

The House budget plan shows that House leaders have different priorities than average Americans. The real test will come as the New York delegation to the House of Representatives decides whether to play "follow the leader" or do what is best for their communities, their constituents and the American economy.

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