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# Ross Has Heavy Hand Online

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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

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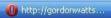
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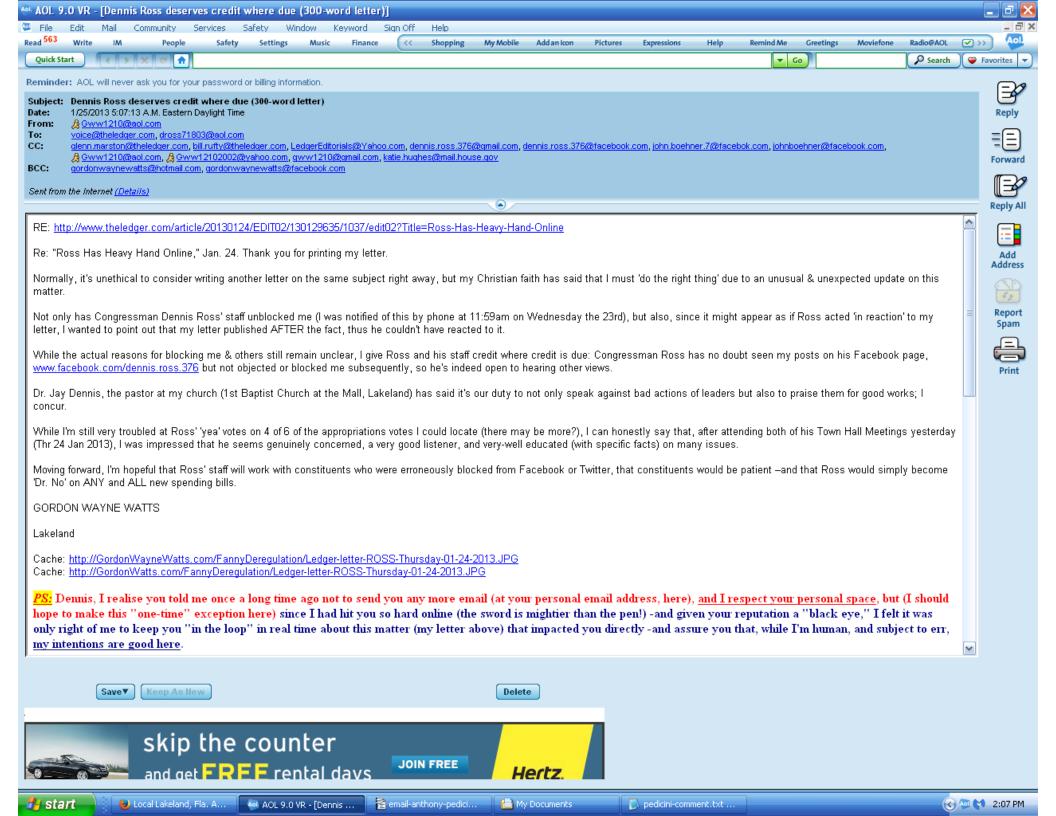


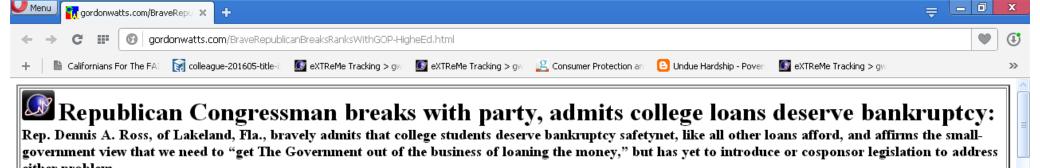






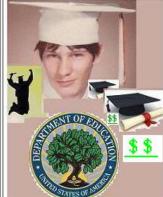






either problem

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 11, Representative Dennis Ross, representing Florida's 15<sup>th</sup> 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-9<sup>th</sup>), has 40 cosponsors, all Democrat. Typically most or all cosponsors of such bills are Democrat. 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:

## 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 🔼 Ross has only voted for about half the Appropriation bills that "overspend."

(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,

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

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?



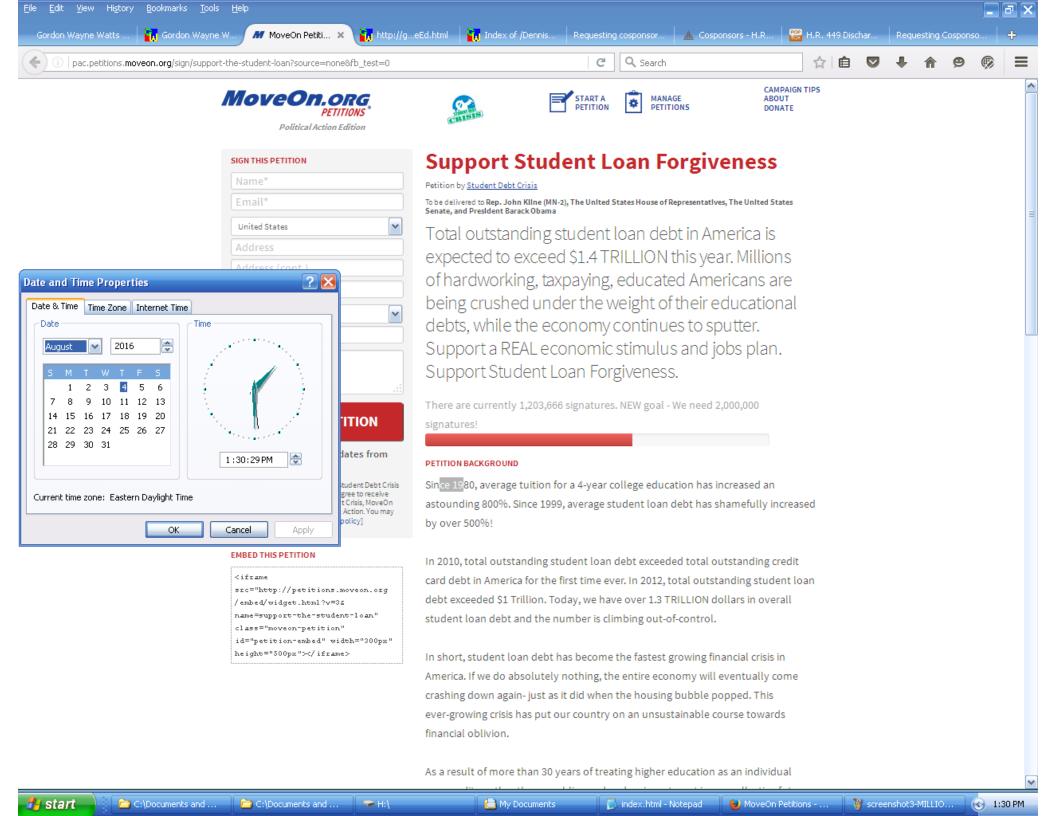


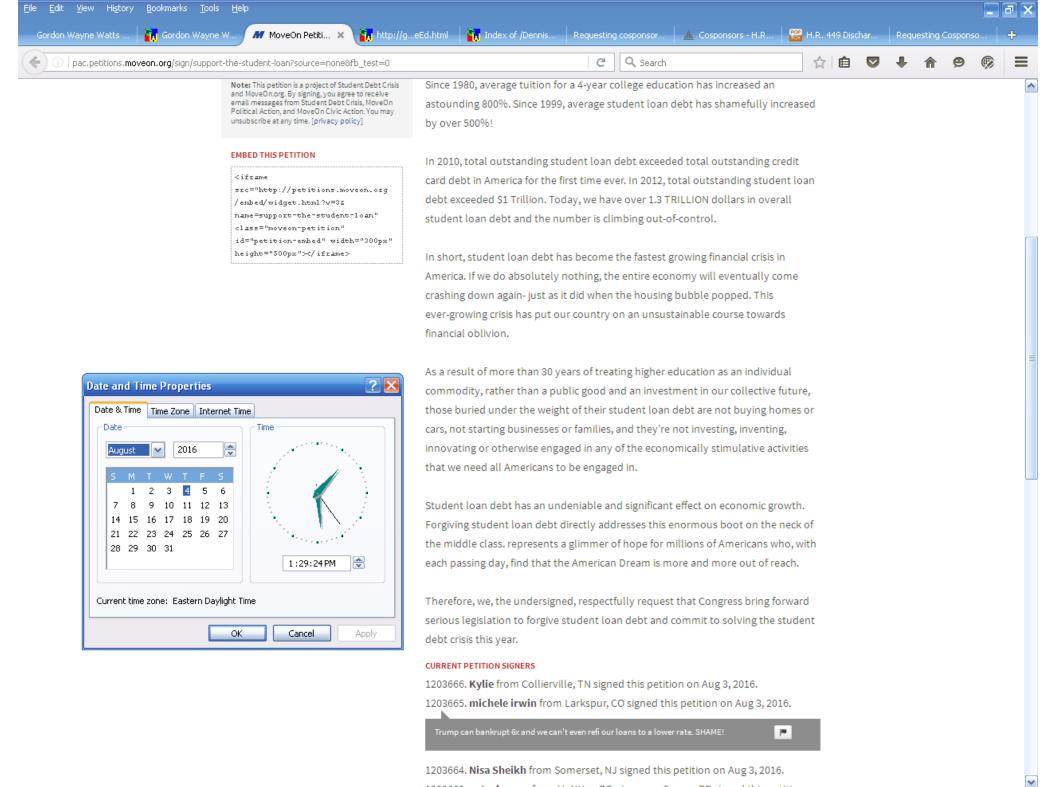






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