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Flawed tax plan is better than no plan

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In an April 16 news article written by reporter Don Dodson about a Chamber of Commerce meeting, I was quoted as having spoken up at that meeting. While the quote as written is accurate, it missed two major points of my argument.

First was my mention that the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce had endorsed education reform, pension reform, infrastructure reform and health care reform in its publication The Commerce Connection. So while the chamber is on record as endorsing these services, it does not offer any plan to pay for these services.

Second was that the question I raised about how the chamber and the legislators there assembled planned to pay for these expanded services. I received no answer.

I called the offices of state Sen. Michael Frerichs and state Rep. Naomi Jakobsson to inquire and found that Sen. Frerichs' staff has no idea of what is entailed in the Health Care Justice Act, thinking that it is merely an extension of Medicaid. That is not what it is.

Jakobsson's staff was more direct and to the point and gave me an honest answer, "We just don't know."

This all makes me think that, flawed though Gov. Blagojevich's gross receipts tax may be, it is still the only method on the table to pay for all these services, which are, indeed, good for the people of Illinois. I don't blame businesses or the chamber for disliking the gross receipts tax, but wouldn't a proactive offer of a different plan make better sense than the current reactive rejection of the only plan on the table?

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Campaign for Better

Health Care

Champaign

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