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## Brown blasts Republican tax cut

By **LAURA M. SCHNEIDER**

Morning Journal Writer

ELYRIA – U.S. Rep. Sherrod Brown, D-Lorain, yesterday called a Republican tax cut bill a political ploy that's holding up efforts to give a child tax credit to low-income working families, but Republicans said they disagree.

"We are calling today on President Bush and the House of Representatives to enact the same kind of tax relief to parents of children as he gave to millionaires in the country," Brown said yesterday during a press conference in the Child Care Center at Lorain County Community College.

In the tax bill passed in May, millions of families were left out, Brown said. The Senate voted in June for legislation that would offer increased tax credit to low-income families.

The Republicans introduced and passed an \$80 billion bill – compared with the \$6.5 billion bill approved in the Senate, said Ted Miller, spokesman for Brown.

Yesterday, Brown called the Republican bill a "political ploy designed to sabotage the bipartisan effort to help these children."

"Nobody's responsible except for Republicans delaying and denying the money," he said.

Brown called for officials to pass the Senate bill before Congress breaks in August.

"They deserve it and they need it," he said yesterday.

Bruce Cuthbertson, spokesman for Rep. Patrick Tiberi, a Columbus Republican, said the Senate plan offers tax credit, but for a shorter period of time than the Republican plan.

"The Senate plan, as I understand it, is less expensive for one simple reason – it extends the tax credit to low-income families and then yanks it away in a couple of years," Cuthbertson said. "That's why our bill costs more, because we do more."

Cuthbertson said the Republican bill also does more to help military families.

The tax credit would affect working families earning between \$10,000 and \$26,000 annually, he said.

U.S. Rep. Steve LaTourette, who represents eastern Cleveland suburbs, said yesterday the House and Senate are in conference trying to reach a compromise.

"I don't know if we're going to be able to reach a compromise or not, but I hope so," he said.

LaTourette said the bill passed in the House includes permanent child tax credits.

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Toledo, responded to the issue via e-mail message yesterday.

"The child tax credit should be extended to all low-income American families in time to help out with their back-to-school needs," she wrote. "While the Senate-passed child tax credit bill finally does this, in the House of Republicans who excluded these families in the first place still insist on leaving some families out. There is no question that Republicans in the House are still up for gamesmanship instead of leadership."

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