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Lobbying for death tax repeal won't help me

By Joseph A. Wolak

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The Sunday Opinion page included a column, written by Phil Kerpen, about repealing the “Death Tax.”

His point of view sounded heartfelt. However, when I finished reading his opinion, I had to ask myself why there was no information about the actual amount of the death tax. So, I Googled the IRS. I learned that the estate tax for 2015 is \$5,430,000. Hey, I guess that means if I have less than that amount, I don't have to worry about it! The estate tax sounds like a rich-guy tax.

Next, I Googled, “American Commitment,” the group that Kerpen represents as president. I learned that group is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization. Back to Google! I followed up with a search of Phil Kerpen. Kerpen has been affiliated with Americans for Prosperity and the Cato Institute. So, it appears that Kerpen has been supported by the billionaire Koch brothers. Now the question is, do Kerpen and the Koch brothers care about worker-bee me and my puny estate, or making the rich richer? Gee, let me think about it. I'm pausing here because I'm laughing ... OK, I'm back.

I think that Mr. Kerpen has been intentionally deceptive in his article and supports the wealthy who support his organization and can afford to pay off, I mean ‘lobby,’ politicians.

Perhaps income equality is more important to discuss than how we can give the wealthy more money.