



News From
DAVE WELDON

Florida's 15th District -- *Serving Brevard, Indian River, Osceola, and Polk Counties*

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**Weldon Supports Improving FSA Program
for Working Families**
Bill Allows Unused Benefits to Roll Over

(Washington, D.C.) – Today, U.S. Representative Dave Weldon (R-Indialantic) voted in favor of the Working Families Assistance Act of 2004, H.R. 4372. This bill allows employees to carryover \$500 in unused benefits from a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for dependent care. Previously, any unused monies would be forfeited at the end of the year.

“Hard working families, with children or elderly parents who are dependent on them, should not have to forfeit the hard-earned money that they have contributed to a Flexible Spending Account. This plan makes sense and lowers the ever increasing cost of dependent care today,” Weldon said.

FSAs are employer-established benefit plans that reimburse employees for specified expenses as they are incurred. In contrast to traditional insurance plans, FSAs generally allow employees to vary benefit amounts in accordance with their anticipated health care and family needs.

Employees each year choose how much to put in their accounts, which they may use for dependent care or for medical and dental expenses other than insurance. However, there must be separate accounts for these two purposes, and amounts unused at the end of the year must be forfeited to the employer. This bill corrects this problem allowing employees to carry money over from one year to another. The house approved a similar bill to correct this problem for the Flexible Spending Accounts for Health Care needs earlier this year.

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