

LYNN A. WESTMORELAND  
3RD DISTRICT, GEORGIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1213 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-5901

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1601 EAST HIGHWAY 34  
SUITE B  
NEWNAN, GA 30265  
(770) 683-2033

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1008

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REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to respectfully request that you withdraw the nomination of former United States Senator Tom Daschle to be our nation's next Secretary of Health & Human Services.

We believe that Senator Daschle no longer has the confidence of the American people to effectively serve and his confirmation would seriously undermine your call to change the way business is done in Washington. Senator Daschle's failure to properly pay his income taxes raises serious questions about his ability to effectively execute the Department of Health & Human Services' mission of "protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves." As our nation begins a serious debate about reforming our health system, how can we accept as your chief spokesman a man who has shown a basic contempt for our laws and profited from the very industry he will be charged with regulating?

Moreover, at a time of economic hardship when many of our constituents will face a basic choice between providing for their families and paying their federal income taxes, how can we accept a Cabinet official who chose not to pay his taxes? Mistakes can be "innocent" but we have seen too many families face stiff penalties from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for failing to pay much less in their income taxes. The Americans we represent share a basic belief that those we choose to head our government should pay their fair share of taxes. That should be without question.

Leadership follows from example. When do one or two "innocent" tax mistakes, become an example to the nation that our tax laws are to be willingly discarded? Are we in danger of sending a message that tax avoidance is only acceptable if you are a Member of Congress or the Cabinet? In the future, how can your administration decry tax shelters and the numerous other methods people use to avoid paying their taxes if members of your own Cabinet are guilty of failing to pay theirs?

In closing, given the appearance of impropriety surrounding former Senator Tom Daschle, we urge you to withdraw his nomination effective immediately.

Yours truly,

