

Congressman Steve King made the following statement today on former Senator Tom Daschle's nomination to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

"Tom Daschle, speaking on the Senate floor in 1998, stated that 'tax cheaters cheat us all, and the IRS should enforce our laws to the letter.' Daschle now believes that failing to pay \$140,167 in late tax and interest payments – likely with no penalty for failing to do so - is not significant enough to preclude him from serving in one of the top positions in our government.

"Vice President Biden once remarked that paying taxes is a patriotic duty. Tom Daschle passed up his opportunity to do his patriotic duty.

"Confirming Tom Daschle as Health Secretary would be an insult to the millions of Americans who work hard and pay their taxes on time. If President Obama continues to press for Daschle's confirmation, it sends a message to the American people that paying taxes is irrelevant and unnecessary. This nomination represents the height of hypocrisy from an Administration that promised change and new levels of transparency in government."