



Contact: Alisa Mosley  
202-347-1895

**For Immediate Release**

**National Medical Association Applauds Choice of Health and Human Services Secretary**

Washington, DC, December 11, 2008...The National Medical Association (NMA) applauds the announcement today of the nomination of former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle as the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Daschle brings effective bipartisan leadership to the Department of Health and Human Services. We believe that he will work collectively with key stakeholders to provide a comprehensive national health care reform benefiting all Americans.

“President-elect Obama has made a courageous stance in nominating former Majority Leader Tom Daschle. We are particularly encouraged by the nomination as Daschle understands the challenges facing the underrepresented and the underserved communities,” said Dr. Carolyn Barley Britton, President of the NMA.

“Daschle’s nomination gives the nation hope that we will continue to work together to deliver affordable healthcare that provides the promises of accessibility and guarantees cultural and linguistic competence,” said Dr. Mohammad N. Akhter, Executive Director of the NMA.

“The National Medical Association supports the President-elect’s nomination, and we are prepared to work together to strengthen a comprehensive national health care reform that addresses the concerns of minority physicians and the patients we serve,” said Dr. Niva Lubin-Johnson, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the NMA.

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*Founded in 1895, the National Medical Association is the nation’s oldest and largest medical association representing the interests of more than 30,000 African-American physicians and their patients. The NMA has repeatedly advocated for policies that would assure equitable and quality health care for all people.*