

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1981

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DOLE LEGISLATION TO PROTECT IRS TAX AUDIT DATA

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today announced his intention to introduce legislation, as soon as Congress reconvenes, to ensure that IRS tax audit selection procedures are not disclosed to the general public.

The Internal Revenue Service's data base for its Taxpayer Compliance Measurement Program (TCMP) is used by the agency to develop standards for selecting tax returns for audit. Recent court decisions brought under the Freedom of Information Act have indicated that this data may be subject to disclosure.

"Legislation is needed to clarify that Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code does not permit such disclosure," Dole said. "The Taxpayer Compliance Measurement Program is intended to serve the basic purposes of the IRS's general audit program, which involves approximately two million returns. Maintaining the confidentiality of this information far outweighs any legitimate public interest in its disclosure or any benefit to be derived from disclosure."

Dole noted that his planned legislation has the full support of the Administration and is urgently needed to protect the integrity of the self-assessment income tax system.