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RELEASE DATE:
8/6/2019

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DRAZKOWSKI AND COLLEAGUES REQUEST **INVESTIGATIONS OF ILHAN OMAR'S FRAUDULENT TAXES**

St. Paul – Rep. Steve Drazkowski (Republican-Mazeppa) announced today that he is submitting formal requests to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Minnesota Department of Revenue for a full investigation of Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's (D-MN) fraudulent, joint income tax filings from 2014 and 2015.

Additionally, Representatives Linda Runbeck, Glenn Gruenhagen, Shane Mekeland, John Poston, Eric Lucero, Duane Quam, Tim Miller, Cal Bahr, and Jeremy Munson are joining Rep. Drazkowski in requesting full investigations of Congresswoman Omar's fraudulent activities. "I am very pleased that several of my colleagues here in the Minnesota House are joining me in this effort," Rep. Drazkowski said. "More and more people are beginning to realize that Rep. Omar's deceptive conduct is unacceptable. The people deserve answers," he added.

Rep. Omar was legally married to Ahmed Elmi from 2009 to 2017. However, she filed joint income taxes with a separate individual, Ahmed Hirsi, in 2014 and 2015. Such actions are plainly illegal under 26 U.S.C. § 7201. "You can't be legally married to one person, yet filing joint income taxes with another person. Such conduct is blatantly wrong," Rep. Drazkowski said.

The formal requests from Rep. Drazkowski also ask both agencies to examine improper payments Rep. Omar received. In 2017, Rep. Omar accepted thousands of dollars in speaking fees from Minnesota colleges. However, she oversaw the budgets of those institutions as a member of the Higher Education Committee of the Minnesota House of Representatives. These improper payments were returned in 2018 after Rep. Omar was faced with a potential ethics inquiry. "We need to know how she reported that illegal income," Rep. Drazkowski said.

Rep. Drazkowski's request is based on information obtained from a Minnesota Campaign Finance Board (CFB) order. Earlier this year, the CFB ordered Rep. Omar to repay \$1,500 of campaign donations she illegally diverted to a law firm. The CFB concluded that her illegal payments to this law firm were directly related to her 2014 and 2015 joint income taxes.

"Rep. Omar claims her 2014 and 2015 taxes have been 'corrected,'" Rep. Drazkowski said. "Well, she may have illegally used campaign contributions to correct those fraudulent taxes." Rep. Omar has repeatedly refused to explain why her taxes were illegally filed from the beginning. Additionally, the press has refused to investigate the matter.

"I hear members of the media say that there is no definitive evidence or 'smoking gun' in this case," Rep. Drazkowski said. "If fraudulent taxes aren't a 'smoking gun' of felonious behavior, then I don't know what is anymore."

Accordingly, Rep. Drazkowski believes sufficient evidence exists for the IRS to mount a full investigation. "Rep. Omar has demonstrated her disdain for transparency. As such, I am asking the IRS and the Minnesota Department of Revenue to initiate a comprehensive investigation into Rep. Omar's tax returns," Rep. Drazkowski said. "The Congresswoman's consistent and intentional misuses of finances should certainly be considered in this matter."

Rep. Omar's many financial offenses have brought about penalties, repayments, and fines. They are listed below:

HONORARIUMS: Rep. Omar repaid thousands of dollars in honorariums she received in 2018 from Minnesota community colleges whose budgets she helped to control as a Member of the Higher Education Finance Committee of the Minnesota House.

TRAVEL: The CFB ordered Rep. Omar to repay thousands of dollars she diverted from her campaign to pay for political trips to Boston, New York, Washington, Chicago, and Florida. These trips had nothing to do with her campaign.

PERSONAL BUSINESS: The CFB ordered Rep. Omar to repay thousands of dollars she diverted from her campaign for personal expenses regarding legal and accounting services.

ILLEGAL FUND-RAISING: The CFB fined Rep. Omar \$500 for diverting campaign funds to pay for her travel to Florida to collect a check at a political event.

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