September 17, 2003

Akin Votes for Bipartisan Charitable Act *Legislation Empowers Charities*

Washington, D.C.- Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO) voted today in favor of the Charitable Giving Act, a bill introduced by Representative Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Representative Harold Ford (D-TN) that will encourage charitable giving and empower charities and faith-based organizations.

Representative Blunt's bill would:

- Provide 86 million Americans who do not itemize on their tax returns the opportunity to deduct a portion of their charitable contributions;
- Provide incentives for individuals to make tax-free contributions to charity from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)
- Raise the cap on corporate charitable contributions from 10% to 20%; and
- Establish a compassion capitol fund to provide technical and capacity building assistance for small charities and faith-based organizations

"Encouraging charitable donations and providing tax relief is essential", said Akin. "Roy Blunt deserves a lot of credit for helping ordinary Americans and the companies where they work give to their communities and many other worthy causes."