

April 10, 2002

### Rep. Akin Votes to Enhance Taxpayer Protection

Washington, DC- Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 3991, the Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act of 2002. Congressman Todd Akin voted in favor of the bill, which improves fair treatment to taxpayers and increases confidentiality of taxpayer information.

“Not only does this bill simplify the tax administration process, thereby helping our government work more efficiently, it will also help safeguard the privacy of taxpayers,” stated Akin. “By refining the role of the IRS, we can help make the process of paying taxes a little less frustrating. Now, we need to turn our sights to making the tax reforms passed last year permanent.”

Provisions in the bill will:

- Improve the fairness of IRS collection procedures by allowing taxpayers to enter into installment agreements for less than the full amount of their tax liability
- Improve confidentiality by prohibiting unauthorized browsing of taxpayers' records, and granting the IRS Commissioner authority to specify penalties up to and including termination for improper activities by IRS employees
- Reform penalty and interest provisions