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Commissioner Frans, officials thank volunteers for providing free tax services to low-income taxpayers during Financial Literacy Month

St. Paul, Minn. – Department of Revenue Commissioner Myron Frans visited AccountAbility Minnesota’s St. Paul headquarters to meet with staff and volunteers as they provide free tax and financial services to low- and moderate-income taxpayers. The visit is part Financial Literacy Month, declared by Governor Mark Dayton last week, which seeks to empower Minnesotans from all walks of life to achieve financial success and security.

“Designating April as Financial Literacy Month is a perfect way to highlight the important work organizations like AccountAbility Minnesota are doing to assist Minnesotans with their tax filing,” said Commissioner Frans. “Filing accurate and on-time returns can help taxpayers enhance their financial health and keep them on the path to achieving financial security.”

“Tax time can be an important money moment for so many struggling to make ends meet, especially in our tough economic times,” said Tracy Fischman, executive director of AccountAbility Minnesota. “Tax credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit and Minnesota Working Family Credit significantly boost the incomes of hard-pressed families – sometimes by 40 percent – and so we provide an array of financial services and products at tax time to help them use their refunds to build economic security.

Taxpayers utilizing reputable services like AccountAbility Minnesota or Minnesota Department of Revenue-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are given the peace of mind that their returns are being completed accurately, allowing them to maximize their refunds.

Taxpayers uncertain about owing money or having difficulty paying are advised to contact the Minnesota Department of Revenue. Department representatives can assist taxpayers in setting

up a manageable plan that promotes financial security and prevents them from incurring unjust penalties or interest on the money they owe.

“We understand that filing and potentially owing money can be overwhelming for many people. It’s important that taxpayers know the department is available to provide assistance and resolve outstanding issues,” said Commissioner Frans. “Taking responsibility for your financial wellbeing can be difficult, but services provided by organizations such as AccountAbility Minnesota and the Department of Revenue can help keep you on track.”

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