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**Congressman Erik Paulsen Speaks in Favor of the Alzheimer's
Breakthrough Act**

- Alzheimer's Association Statement -

Minneapolis, MN, December 7, 2011 – Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the US, and 100,000 people live with the disease right here in Minnesota. An immediate commitment from the federal government to combat Alzheimer's is needed, and the Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota commends Congressman Erik Paulsen (R-MN) for his recent public support for Alzheimer's research in the US House of Representatives.

In a floor speech last Wednesday, Congressman Paulsen called out the *Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act* (H.R. 1897) as an important commitment to Alzheimer's research. The congressman stated that the bill, of which he is a co-author, would work for an end to this terrible disease, in part by establishing public-private partnerships to pursue emerging research opportunities.

Alzheimer's disease currently affects 5.4 million citizens in the US, and leading scientists believe that a tipping point in Alzheimer's research is at hand. A research commitment similar to those made for stroke, heart disease, HIV/AIDS and breast cancer could produce the same positive outcomes in terms of meaningful treatments and reductions in mortality. The *Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act* would establish Alzheimer's disease as a research priority at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

On behalf of the millions of people living with Alzheimer's and the millions more at risk of developing this terminal disease in the future, the Alzheimer's Association is grateful for the leadership of Congressman Paulsen, and for his work on this important legislation which, if enacted, would work to bring an end to a devastating epidemic.

About the Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota

The Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's. For more information, visit www.alz.org/mnnd.

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