

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 774

Designating June 15, 2024, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day” and the month of June 2024 as “Elder Abuse Awareness Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2024

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating June 15, 2024, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day” and the month of June 2024 as “Elder Abuse Awareness Month”.

Whereas, in 2021, approximately 55,000,000 residents of the United States, or about 1 in every 6 individuals, had attained the age of 65, and by 2060, nearly 95,000,000 individuals in the United States, or about 1 in every 4 individuals, will be over the age of 65, according to estimates by the Bureau of the Census;

Whereas, in 2029, it is anticipated that older adults will outnumber children for the first time, according to the Bureau of the Census;

Whereas elder abuse remains a challenging problem and can come in many different forms, often manifesting as phys-

ical, sexual, or psychological abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, and social media abuse;

Whereas elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation have no boundaries and cross all racial, social, class, gender, and geographic lines, according to the Elder Justice Coalition;

Whereas about 1 in 10 adults over the age of 60 are subjected to abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation each year, according to the National Institute on Aging;

Whereas the annual loss by victims of financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$36,500,000,000, according to the National Council on Aging;

Whereas most reported cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults take place within private homes, and approximately 90 percent of the perpetrators in elder financial exploitation cases are family members or other trusted individuals, according to the National Adult Protective Services Association;

Whereas research suggests that elderly individuals in the United States who experience cognitive impairment, physical disabilities, or isolation are more likely to become the victims of abuse than those who do not experience cognitive impairment, physical disabilities, or isolation;

Whereas other risk factors for elder abuse can include low social support, poor physical health, and experience of previous traumatic events, according to the National Center on Elder Abuse;

Whereas close to half of elderly individuals who suffer from dementia will experience abuse or neglect during their lifetime, according to the Department of Justice;

Whereas only 1 in 24 cases of elder abuse is reported, according to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services;

Whereas, on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the United States mourns the loss of elderly individuals who perished in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities during the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas the COVID–19 pandemic has led to the emergence of new scams against older adults, including those related to vaccines;

Whereas, during the last 4 years, Congress passed and the President signed 2 measures that make nearly \$400,000,000 available for implementation of the initiatives under the Elder Justice Act of 2009 (subtitle H of title VI of Public Law 111–148; 124 Stat. 783), the largest funding stream related to such initiatives in the history of the Act; and

Whereas Congress, in passing the Elder Justice Act of 2009 (subtitle H of title VI of Public Law 111–148; 124 Stat. 783), the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (34 U.S.C. 21701 et seq.), the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2; 135 Stat. 4), and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 1182), recognized the importance of protecting older people of the United States against abuse and exploitation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates June 15, 2024, as “World Elder
3 Abuse Awareness Day” and the month of June 2024
4 as “Elder Abuse Awareness Month”;

1 (2) recognizes—

2 (A) judges, lawyers, adult protective serv-
3 ices professionals, law enforcement officers, so-
4 cial workers, health care providers, advocates
5 for victims, and other professionals and agen-
6 cies for their efforts to advance awareness of
7 elder abuse;

8 (B) the important work of the Elder Jus-
9 tice Coordinating Council, which has continued
10 through the previous 2 Presidential administra-
11 tions and involves 15 different Federal agen-
12 cies;

13 (C) the essential work done by adult pro-
14 tective services personnel, who regularly come
15 to the assistance of victims, investigate reports
16 of abuse, and actively prevent future victimiza-
17 tion of older people in the United States, espe-
18 cially during the COVID–19 pandemic as the
19 social isolation of elderly individuals, due to
20 stay-at-home orders, only increased the risk of
21 abuse and neglect; and

22 (D) the importance of supporting State
23 long-term care ombudsman programs, which
24 help prevent elder abuse and neglect in nursing
25 homes and other long-term care facilities, where

1 infection prevention and control deficiencies
2 pose persistent challenges;

3 (3) applauds the work of the Elder Justice Coa-
4 lition and its members, whose efforts to increase
5 public awareness of elder abuse have the potential to
6 increase the identification and reporting of this
7 crime by the public, professionals, and victims, and
8 can act as a catalyst to promote issue-based edu-
9 cation and long-term prevention; and

10 (4) encourages—

11 (A) members of the public and profes-
12 sionals who work with older adults to act as
13 catalysts to promote awareness and long-term
14 prevention of elder abuse—

15 (i) by reaching out to local adult pro-
16 tective services agencies, State long-term
17 care ombudsman programs, and the Na-
18 tional Center on Elder Abuse; and

19 (ii) by learning to recognize, detect,
20 report, and respond to elder abuse;

21 (B) private individuals and public agencies
22 in the United States to continue work together
23 at the Federal, State, and local levels to combat
24 abuse, neglect, exploitation, crime, and violence
25 against vulnerable adults, including vulnerable

1 older adults, particularly in light of limited re-
2 sources for vital protective services; and

3 (C) those Federal agencies with responsi-
4 bility for preventing elder abuse to fully exercise
5 such responsibilities to protect older adults,
6 whether such older adults are living in the com-
7 munity or in long-term care facilities.

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