

**JOHN BREAUX**

LOUISIANA

DEMOCRATIC  
CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEES:

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION

FINANCE

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
RANKING MEMBER

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
(202) 224-4623  
TDD (202) 224-1986

senator@breaux.senate.gov  
<http://www.senate.gov/~breaux>

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1803

STATE OFFICES:

2237 SOUTH ACADIAN THRUWAY, SUITE 80  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70808  
(225) 248-0104

U.S. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING  
800 LAFAYETTE STREET, SUITE 1300  
LAFAYETTE, LA 70501  
(337) 262-6871

1900 NORTH 18TH STREET, SUITE 805  
MONROE, LA 71201  
(318) 325-3320

HALE BOGGS FEDERAL BUILDING  
501 MAGAZINE STREET, SUITE 1005  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130  
(504) 589-2531

CENTRAL LOUISIANA:  
(318) 487-8445

August 12, 2003

Robert Blancato  
National Coordinator  
Elder Justice Coalition  
1101 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 1001  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Bob:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and all the members of the Elder Justice Coalition for the work done on behalf of the millions of victims of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation, and in support of my bill, S. 333 the Elder Justice Act. I know that Senator Hatch, the lead Republican sponsor, is also pleased with all the support the Coalition has provided and the response this legislation has received.

As we move toward the fall, we have made significant progress with this bill. Some of the highlights of this year's work include:

As we began the August recess, there were a total of 28 co-sponsors on S. 333, exceeding the total from last year's bill.

The comparable House bill H.R. 2490 was introduced in June on a bi-partisan basis and it already has 49 co-sponsors.

A recent hearing of the Senate Finance Committee focused on abuse in nursing homes provided an important opportunity to specifically discuss S. 333 and its relevant provisions to combat this form of elder abuse.

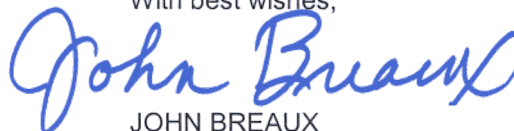
I am very impressed with the growth of the Elder Justice Coalition since its launch in February. The fact that there are now over 180 different national, state and local organizations as well as individuals in the Coalition demonstrates that elder justice is an issue that must be addressed.

I especially commend you on your grass roots campaign during the August recess to educate the public and Members of Congress about the need to address elder justice issues and cosponsor this bill.

We expect the fall to also be active on behalf of the Elder Justice Act which will include one or more hearings on the issue and continued work toward a mark up in the Senate Finance Committee.

I am deeply appreciative of the support and the hard work being done by the Elder Justice Coalition. It is vital that it continue as we move to the important next stages of consideration for this bill.

With best wishes,

  
JOHN BREAUX