



# THE ELDER JUSTICE COALITION

"A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE SUPPORTING ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA"

May 20, 2011

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## THE ELDER JUSTICE COALITION

*A National Advocacy Voice for Elder Justice in America*

**704 Member Coalition**

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## FY 2012 Appropriations Update

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Last week, the House Appropriations Committee announced that the Labor-HHS, Education, and Related Agencies bill will be voted on in the Subcommittee on **July 26<sup>th</sup>** followed by a full Committee vote on **August 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

The Committee also indicated it is seeking to make cuts of \$46 billion from current funding levels, including \$18 billion from Labor-HHS.

**This could result in no first time funding for the Elder Justice Act.** In response, the EJC has been meeting with House and Senate Appropriations Committee members to discuss how crucial funding is for the EJA.

### CALL TO ACTION

If your member of Congress serves on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS, please contact their office and ask them to support funding for the Elder Justice Act! The EJC is asking for a minimum funding level of \$21.5 million for the EJA in FY 2012. This amount was included in President Obama's FY 2012 Budget Proposal.

#### Breakdown:

**Adult Protective Services (APS)**-\$16.5 million for State Adult Protective Services demonstrations to improve operations. Of these funds, \$1.5 million will be targeted for coalition building, training and technical assistance, elder rights program development and research for preventing and addressing elder abuse within Tribal nations according to the Administration on Aging (AoA).

**Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program**-an additional \$5 million to improve resident advocacy to elders and adults with disabilities who live in long-term care settings.

For information on how to contact your Representative, [CLICK HERE](#).

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## Elder Abuse Prevalence Study-Final Report

## Released

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This week, Lifespan in Rochester, NY released the final report for “Under the Radar: New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study Self-Reported Prevalence and Documented Case Surveys”. The final report is available on their website by visiting <http://www.lifespan-roch.org/documents/UndertheRadar051211.pdf>.

The study's results demonstrate that elder abuse is far more rampant than previously known. Out of 23.5 elder abuse cases, only one is reported. For financial exploitation the ratio is 43.9 to 1 reported and 57.2 to 1 reported for cases of neglect.

Approximately one in thirteen persons 60 and older (7.6%) suffers from at least one form of elder abuse. While emotional and psychological abuse is the most common form reported to agencies, followed by physical abuse, the self-reported study found financial exploitation to be the most prevalent form of elder mistreatment.

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## WEAAD-Less Than One Month Away

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As you know, on **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the Elder Justice Coalition sent a letter to **President Obama** asking him to issue a proclamation and hold a signing ceremony for **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)**. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is held every year on June 15<sup>th</sup>. We also encouraged our EJC members to do the same. Thank you to those of you who sent a message to the President. If you have not done so and would like, please [CLICK HERE!](#)

In addition, please feel free to send a note to **Assistant Secretary for Aging, Kathy Greenlee** requesting that she ask President Obama to issue a proclamation and hold a signing ceremony in honor of WEAAD. To contact Assistant Secretary Greenlee, [CLICK HERE!](#)

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### ***Letter from the Elder Justice Coalition***

*Dear Mr. President:*

*On behalf of the Elder Justice Coalition, I write to ask you to issue a proclamation and hold a signing ceremony in honor of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on June 15, 2011. On this day, across the country and across the world, communities plan activities and programs to raise awareness about elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.*

*As you well know, the number of older Americans is growing fast. Far outpacing the growth of older population is the incidence of abuse, neglect and exploitation to older adults. This problem has long been invisible to most*

*of society and, and as a significant and complex form of family violence, is among the gravest issues facing millions of older Americans and their families.*

*World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) puts a spotlight on this issue. WEAAD provides an opportunity to communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older adults by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic conditions influencing elder abuse and neglect.*

*The Elder Justice Coalition, with more than 700 members playing a role in and a long time supporter of WEAAD, is the national advocacy voice representing the many disciplines involved in the fight against elder abuse. This includes adult protective services, ombudsmen, health care professionals, elder law and law enforcement, researchers, national, state and local advocacy groups and key players in the aging network.*

*In an effort to educate the public and raise awareness, the EJC hopes you will support WEAAD and promote elder justice: the right of every older person to be free of abuse, neglect and exploitation.*

*Ultimately, your proclamation of June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and corresponding signing ceremony will serve as a call-to-action for individuals, organizations and communities to raise awareness about elder justice.*

*We thank you for your tireless support of older adults and particularly your support of the Elder Justice Act as part of the Affordable Care Act and its inclusion in your fiscal year 2012 budget proposal. Thank you for your assistance in making this initiative a success, as well. If you or your staff has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.*

*Respectfully yours,*



*Robert Blancato*

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## **Reminder: 3<sup>rd</sup> Notice-National Background Check Program**

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The Elder Justice Coalition is pleased that CMS has announced a third opportunity for states to apply for National Background Check Program for Patient Protection grants. The Elder Justice Coalition was a strong

supporter of Senator Herb Kohl's legislation which created this nationwide program. We urge all states to apply for these federal matching grants. To view the complete notice, please [CLICK HERE](#). Applications are due by June 30, 2011.

## **Job Announcement at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Office of Financial Protection for Older Americans**

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The CFPB has posted the job of Assistant Director for the Office of Financial Protection for Older Americans, which is in the Office of Consumer Education and Engagement. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is a newly formed Federal agency established under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. For additional information, please visit

<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/job/assistant-director-office-of-older-americans/>.