



THE ELDER JUSTICE COALITION

"A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE SUPPORTING ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA"

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*A National Advocacy
Voice for Elder Justice in
America*

704 Member Coalition

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ELDER JUSTICE COALITION SAYS GAO REPORT PAINTS ALARMING PICTURE OF APS IN AMERICA

Press Release

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The non-partisan 704 member Elder Justice Coalition commented on a GAO report on Adult Protective Services released at a hearing held by the Senate Special Committee on Aging today. "The report paints an alarming picture of APS which operate in all 50 states" said EJC National Coordinator Bob Blancato. "They are the front line in the fight against elder abuse and the lead force in elder abuse prevention yet they are increasingly losing ground in the fight through the failure of state and federal funding to keep pace with increased demand for their services."

In response to the need to bolster Adult Protective Services, Congress passed the Elder Justice Act in 2010 which would provide a first time dedicated funding stream for adult protective services. Kathleen Quinn, Executive Director of the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) said, "This recognition of the importance of APS by Congress is appreciated but this GAO report should be a wakeup call to everyone in Washington that these funds are needed today to forestall any further cutbacks in critical services."

The Coalition noted that President Obama's FY 2012 budget does include just under \$22 million for the Elder Justice Act, mostly for new grants to improve APS services and to assist the long-term care ombudsman program. Quinn also noted, "We view this as an important starting point and using this GAO report we intend to make the case to Congress to improve upon these numbers."

To view the complete report released by the GAO today, [**CLICK HERE**](#).

A complete link to all the testimonies delivered at today's hearing, including that of NAPSA Executive Director Kathleen Quinn (a member of the EJC Leadership) can be found by visiting

http://aging.senate.gov/hearing_detail.cfm?id=331550&