

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 4, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 131
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 156
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Moran,

As the Subcommittee begins deliberations on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations legislation, we ask for your strong support for programs that will make the prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation a top priority. This includes those programs authorized through Elder Justice Act for Adult Protective Services programs, support for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program in the Administration on Aging, and the elder rights protection activities that have been authorized through the Older Americans Act.

According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, direct medical costs associated with elder abuse now exceed \$5 billion annually. Victims often end up having to turn to other federal programs, especially Medicare and Medicaid. Victims of elder financial abuse lose an estimated \$2.9 billion a year, which can include entire life savings. Some of this harm can be avoided and great savings could be made if we begin today to stop this abuse.

This proposed funding would be the first direct appropriation for the bipartisan Elder Justice Act, which was signed into law in 2010. With the \$25 million that the Administration has requested for funding this year, the Department of Health and Human Services would fund \$13.8 million for Adult Protective Services, including an APS National Data System and Technical Assistance and demonstration grants to development of program standards; and \$11.2 million for research including elder abuse screening and to establish a better knowledge base about elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

We urge that the maximum appropriation possible for the Elder Justice Act be included in the FY 2015 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill. At a minimum, we ask that the Subcommittee include the \$25 million that the Administration recommends for FY 2015. Elder abuse often has grave consequences for its victims including serious physical injury, mental anguish, exacerbation of medical conditions, loss of property, emptied bank accounts, and homelessness. Thus, we urge the Subcommittee to consider the importance of this funding as Congress deliberates FY 2015 appropriations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



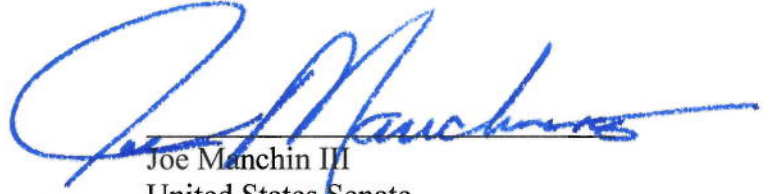
Richard Blumenthal
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Bernard Sanders
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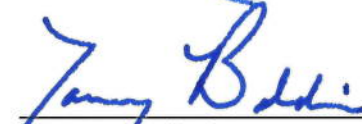
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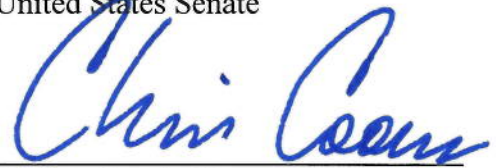
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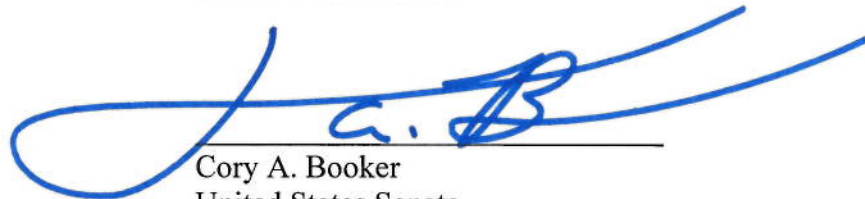
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