

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As the Subcommittee develops its FY2015 appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to prioritize commitment to the prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. **We write to urge you to include the President's request of \$25 million for the Department of Health and Human Service's Elder Justice Initiative.**

According to the Elder Justice Coalition, there are more than six million victims of elder abuse, roughly one of every ten persons over 60. However, the 2011 New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study found that for every elder abuse case known to agencies, twenty-four were unknown. According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, victims of elder financial abuse lose an estimated \$2.9 billion a year, which can include entire life savings.

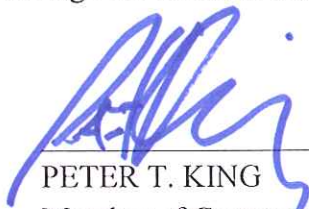
If approved by Congress, this proposed funding would be the first direct appropriation for the bipartisan Elder Justice Act of 2010 which was signed into law as part of the P.L. 111-148. An appropriation of \$25 million for the Elder Justice Initiative at the Department of Health and Human Services would provide:

- \$13.8 million for Adult Protective Services, including an APS National Data System and Technical Assistance and national demonstration grants to both enhance APS data systems and development of program standards as well as an APS evaluation.
- \$11.2 million for research including elder abuse screening and to establish a better knowledge base about elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

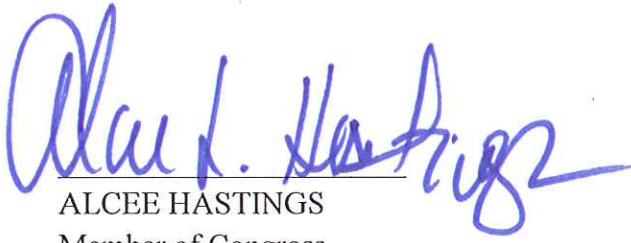
According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, the direct medical costs associated with elder abuse now exceed \$5 billion annually. Victims often end up having to turn to other federal programs, especially Medicare and Medicaid, and financial abuse victims may require other assistance including income support. Some of these costs can be cleanly avoided if we make this investment today.

As you may know, the Elder Justice Act authorizes nearly \$200 million per year for a comprehensive approach to abuse, including support for the long-term care ombudsman program which assists nursing home residents, and funds to create forensic centers important to the prosecution of abusers. While we support the president's request of \$25 million, we also encourage the committee to consider funding beyond this request.

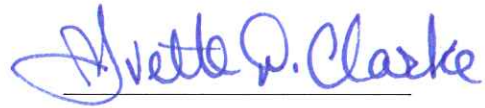
Sincerely,


PETER T. KING
Member of Congress


JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



ALCEE HASTINGS
Member of Congress



YVETTE CLARKE
Member of Congress



SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress



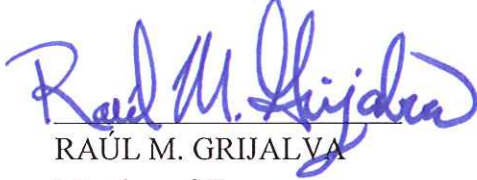
DAVID CICILLINE
Member of Congress



JOHN DELANEY
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MATT CARTWRIGHT
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RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
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ALAN GRAYSON
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