A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA JOHN B. BREAUX, HONORARY CHAIR • ROBERT B. BLANCATO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Robert Blancato National Coordinator Elder Justice Coalition 4/17/2008 Hearing On: H.R. 5464, the "A Child Is Missing Alert and Recovery Center Act"; H.R. 2352, the "School Safety Enhancements Act of 2007"; and H.R. 1783, the "Elder Justice Act"

A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA JOHN B. BREAUX, HONORARY CHAIR • ROBERT B. BLANCATO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR

TESTIMONY FOR THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM, AND HOMELAND SECURITY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chairman Scott and Members of the Subcommittee, on behalf of the nonpartisan 556 member Elder Justice Coalition, I appreciate the invitation to testify today regarding H.R. 1783, the Elder Justice Act. The coalition commends this subcommittee for holding this hearing. We hope it proves to be a catalyst for passing this worthwhile legislation in the House. We especially thank you for holding this hearing during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. A victim of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation is a victim of a crime, but the impact of these crimes is especially severe because of the age and vulnerable nature of the victim. Frankly, Mr. Chairman, we need more than a designated week to address a daily national disgrace.

The Elder Justice Coalition also commends Representatives Rahm Emanuel (D-IL) and Rep. Peter King (R-NY), the co-authors of the Elder Justice Act. They have been longstanding champions of this legislation. We also salute the 105 co-sponsors of the bill, including the following Members from the Judiciary Committee: Representative Baldwin, Representative Berman, Representative Boucher, Representative Cohen, Representative Delahunt, Representative Johnson, Representative Lofgren, Representative Sanchez, Representative Sutton, Representative Wasserman-Schultz, Representative Weiner, and Representative Wexler.

H.R. 1783 addresses elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and its passage is long overdue. The legislation is necessitated by the combination of a growing national problem and an anemic federal response to the problem.

Elder abuse is a multifaceted issue. The abuse takes on many forms, including physical, emotional, sexual, and financial. The common thread involving elder abuse is that it involves one or more persons establishing and then violating a trust relationship with a vulnerable older person.

National data related to elder abuse provides some disturbing present-day realities and future trends:

- According to the National Center on Elder Abuse 2005 fact sheet: Best available estimates are each year between 1 and 2 million Americans age 65 and over have been injured, exploited or otherwise mistreated by someone on whom they depended for care or protection.
- For every one case of elder abuse, neglect, exploitation or self-neglect reported to authorities, at least five more go unreported. As a result, the Senate Special Committee on Aging has estimated the number of elder abuse cases nationally at more than 5 million.
- A 2004 survey of Adult Protective Service agencies revealed a 19.7 percent increase in the combined total of reports of elder and vulnerable adult abuse and a 15.6 percent increase in substantiated cases since 2000.

A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA

JOHN B. BREAUX, HONORARY CHAIR • ROBERT B. BLANCATO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR

- Overall, APS agencies received more than 556,000 reports of suspected elder abuse in 2004.
- Another 20,000 cases of abuse in nursing homes were reported by State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs. It should be noted that this is only one of several possible reporting sources, suggesting the number of nursing home abuse cases may be considerably higher.
- Of a group of more than 190,000 substantiated cases of elder abuse reported to APS, the two highest forms were caregiver neglect and financial exploitation.
- Among perpetrators of elder abuse, 80% were either a family member of or in an ongoing relationship with the victim.
- According to the Department of Justice Office of Victims of Crime, crime victims 65 and over lost a total of \$1.3 billion due to personal and property crimes in 2005, including internet fraud complaints. The median loss for those 60 and over was \$866, higher than any other age group.
- The average victim of elder abuse, according to various studies, is an older woman in her upper 70's living alone. According to the most recent Profile of Older Americans issued by the Administration on Aging, 48 percent of all women 75 and over now live alone. Sadly, data is lacking regarding abuse across race, religion, ethnicity and the diversity of other elderly sub-population groups.
- Earlier studies pointed to the fact that as much as 70 percent of the wealth in our nation is controlled by persons 50 and over, a trend which will continue at the same time as elder financial abuse is one of the fastest rising forms of elder abuse.

Perhaps the most graphic impact of elder abuse can be found in the text of a study by Dr. Mark Lachs entitled "The Mortality of Elder Mistreatment." The study looked at 176 older persons over a 13 year period and found that those who were reported to APS for elder mistreatment had a 9% survival rate over that time period vs. a 40% survival rate for the persons not so reported, adjusted for disease, cognitive status and several other factors.

As striking as the national data may be, elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation are intensely local issues as well. One of the better sources of information that we use to track elder abuse cases is the newsfeed provided as a service by the National Center on Elder Abuse. In preparation for this hearing, we reviewed articles from the States where the Members of this Subcommittee reside and found a total of 67 articles in just the month of March regarding abuse. A complete list of these articles is included as an attachment. The problem is a local, state, and national one. The solution must involve all three entities. In fact, that is the strength of the Elder Justice Act, which helps coordinate and fund programs but also enables states and local communities to run programs that best serve their needs.

The Elder Justice Act has been proposed in each of the last few Congresses. It is legislation which has always, and still does, enjoy significant bi-partisan support. It is legislation that has passed the Senate Finance Committee on two occasions, and in the 109th Congress a very small provision of the EJA dealing with data collection was passed and signed into law. The Elder Justice

A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA JOHN B. BREAUX, HONORARY CHAIR • ROBERT B. BLANCATO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR Act also served as a catalyst for changes that were made to the Older Americans Act of 2006, in which Congress broadened the role of the Administration on Aging related to elder justice and elder abuse, including the coordination of elder justice activities.

However the fact remains that of all the federal funds spent on abuse prevention, less than 2 percent is spent on elder abuse, despite the national increase in the number of cases. Many states opt to use some of their Social Services Block Grant funds to support APS, but the amount used for APS varies dramatically from state to state and fluctuates as states adjust their SSBG expenditures to deal with cuts in social services and other priorities. Moreover, the SSBG has incurred more than \$1billion in funding cuts over the past number of years and the president's budget proposes even deeper cuts to SSBG. A dedicated federal funding stream for Adult Protective Services is urgently needed in order to protect the lives and financial well-being of the rapidly increasing number of older citizens vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

H.R. 1783 includes among its key provisions:

1. Provide the first ever dedicated federal funding for adult protective services – the critical program in every state that assists victims and works with law enforcement.

2. Provide improved APS training and investigations through federal coordination and demonstration grants from HHS.

3. Provide grants to improve ombudsman capacity, conduct pilots, provide support, and improve training.

4. Require immediate reporting to law enforcement of crimes in a long-term care facility and provide better consumer information on Nursing Home Compare.

5. Create a National Training Institute for Surveyors of long-term care facilities.

6. Establish an Elder Justice Coordinating Council to foster coordination throughout the federal government on elder abuse topics and an Advisory Board to the Coordinating Council made up of experts on elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

It also contains important provisions under the jurisdiction of this Committee. This includes requiring the Attorney General to invest through grants in improved training, policy development, and other types of support to state and local prosecutors handling elder abuse cases, as well as retaining additional Federal prosecutors and nurse investigators needed to assist with elder abuse cases. The bill would also permit the Attorney General to fund a resource group to assist prosecutors nationwide with respect to elder justice matters.

In addition to the need for greater reporting of elder abuse is the need for greater prosecutions of these cases once reported. Victims of elder abuse are crime victims. They can suffer physical harm or tremendous loss of needed financial resources. Our criminal justice system needs to be aggressive in bringing those who commit elder abuse to justice and H.R. 1783 can help make that a reality. Current laws and policies of the Department of Justice are not sufficiently elder abuse sensitive and H.R. 1783 would make elder abuse prevention a more distinct priority in DOJ.

In addition, H.R. 1783 would require the Attorney General to award grants to provide training, technical assistance, and other types of support to police and other front-line law enforcement personnel handling elder abuse cases. Again, the point is to recognize the critical role that law enforcement must play in elder abuse prevention. Unless training is provided throughout 1612 K STREET NW SUITE 400 WASHINGTON D.C. 20006

A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA JOHN B. BREAUX, HONORARY CHAIR • ROBERT B. BLANCATO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR the system from adult protective services to law enforcement to prosecutors, we will never improve upon our efforts to combat and prosecute those who commit elder abuse as well as prevent future victimization.

Further, H.R. 1783 would place responsibilities with the Department of Justice to work to help achieve a coordinated federal response to elder justice, evaluate effective state laws, provide recommendations, and conduct evaluations of all new programs authorized under this legislation.

Finally, the bill makes grants to establish and operate stationary and mobile forensic centers to develop forensic expertise on elder abuse and to assist in making winnable cases against perpetrators.

Elder abuse prevention is an issue where the resources of the Department of Justice are needed. At the local level, it has been determined over and over again that a multi-disciplinary team approach works best in elder abuse prevention. This means involving the APS, social services, law enforcement, health, and other sectors in the effort. Grants that foster better trained multidisciplinary responses are sound investments.

There must be a level of shared responsibility in elder abuse prevention. Older people need to be more vigilant to protect themselves and their assets. For the record, some of the common tips include:

- Use Direct Deposit for your checks.
- Don't sign blank checks allowing another person to fill in the amount.
- Don't leave money or valuables in plain sight.
- Don't sign anything you don't understand.
- Protect your money. The bank may be able to protect your money by arranging your accounts to control access to your funds.
- Be aware of scams. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Don't give anyone your ATM PIN number, and cancel your ATM card immediately if it is stolen.
- Check your bank statements carefully for unauthorized withdrawals.
- Be cautious of joint accounts.
- Build good relationships with the professionals who handle your money.

Finally, we must remember that all seniors do not have equal capacity to manage their financial resources. Where assistance is needed, ensure maximum reasonable decision-making for vulnerable seniors whose resources are at stake.

In conclusion, the shared responsibility for protecting the nation's elders must finally be extended to the federal response to elder abuse. Our current policy of directing paltry sums in a piecemeal fashion is not the answer. A comprehensive and effective approach as embodied in the Elder Justice Act is the way we need to go. The Elder Justice Coalition strongly urges the enactment of the Elder Justice Act this year.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA

JOHN B. BREAUX, HONORARY CHAIR • ROBERT B. BLANCATO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR

The Elder Justice Coalition: 556 members 4/16/08 *Denotes Elder Justice Coalition Coordinating Committee **Organizational Members: 229** *National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse *National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys *National Association of State Units on Aging *National Adult Protective Services Association *National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs *AARP Adams County Social Services Department, CO Adult Abuse Coalition of South Central Tennessee, TN Adult Guardianship Services, OH Adult Protective Services, Sacramento, CA Adult Protective Services, San Francisco, CA Advocates for National Guardianship Ethics and Reform **Aging Solutions** Alabama Dept. of Senior Services Alabama Long-Term Care Ombudsman Alaska State Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Alliance for Better Long Term Care Alliance for Quality Nursing Home Care Alliance of Retired Americans American Art Therapy Association Alzheimer's Association *American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging American Association for Single People American Geriatrics Society *American Health Care Association American Psychological Association Americans for Better Care of the Dying American Society on Aging Area Agency on Aging, Region One, Phoenix, AZ Arlington AAA, Arlington, VA Arizona Elder Abuse Coalition Arlington Steering Committee for Services to Older Persons Arkansas Advocates For Nursing Home Residents Assisted Living Federation of America Association for Protection of the Elderly Association for Protection of the Elderly -PA Chapter Association for Protection of the Elderly - West Coast Chapter Bay Area Agency on Aging, Inc. Benjamin Rose Institute, Cleveland, OH Billings Chapter of NCPEA, Montana Brookdale Center on Aging of Hunter College Burden Center for the Aging California Medical Training Center, UC Davis Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis Catholic Charities Health and Human Services, Cleveland, Ohio Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly Center on Aging & Disabilities-University of Miami, FL Center for a Just Society Center for Medicare Advocacy. Inc. Center for Social Gerontology Central PA Critical Jobs Training Chatham County S.A.L.T. (Seniors And Law enforcement Together), GA Citizens for Better Care Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups & the Elder Law Center Coastline Elderly Services, Inc.

> 1612 K Street, NW Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20006 Phone: 202-682-4140 ◆ Fax: 202-223-2099

A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA

JOHN B. BREAUX, HONORARY CHAIR • ROBERT B. BLANCATO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR Cochise County, Arizona, Elder Abuse Task Force College of Professional Mediation, Puerto Rico Collier County S.A.L.T. (Seniors And Law enforcement Together) Council, FL Consumer Consortium for Assisted Living Council on Aging - Orange County Organizational Members (con't) Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York County Welfare Directors Association of California Crater District Area Agency on Aging, VA District of Columbia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office Disability, Abuse and Personal Rights Project Elder Abuse Institute of Maine Eldercare America **ElderCare Rights Alliance Elder Financial Protection Network** Elder Law of Michigan Elder Law Offices of Mitchell A. Karasov, CA Elder Law Practice of Timothy Takacs, TN Family Research Council Foundation for Senior Living Gallatin County Attorney's Office, TN Gary Jones Association, NE General Federation of Women's Clubs Georgia Division of Aging Services Georgia Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Gerontological Society of America Governor's Commission on Senior Services, OR **Gray Panthers** Greater Cleveland Elder Abuse/Domestic Violence Roundtable Hawaii State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Heart and Hand. Inc. Home Instead Senior Care, Inc. Hospice Patients Alliance Idaho State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Institute on Aging Institute for Caregiver Education, PA Institute of Gerontology at the University of Louisiana at Monroe International Association of Forensic Nurses International Cemetery and Funeral Association International Longevity Center Joint Public Affairs Committee for Older Adults. NY Kansas Advocates for Better Care Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association Kalamazoo County Advocates for Senior Issues Kentucky Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Lawyers for Elder Abuse Prevention, NY Lee County Sheriff's Office, Fort Myers, FL Lifecycles, MT LIFESPAN, NY Los Angeles City Attorney's Office Louisiana Association of Councils on Aging Louisiana Geriatrics Society Louisiana Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Lucas County (Ohio) Prosecutor's Office Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Margate Police Department, FL Maricopa Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance, AZ Massachusetts Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Meals on Wheels Association MedAmerica Insurance Company Mendocino County DHHS, CA Member of the Family

A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA

Metropolitan Crime Commission of Jackson, MS Michigan Campaign for Quality Care Michigan Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Missouri Advocates For The Elderly Napa County Health and Human Services Agency, CA National Adult Day Services Association National Association of Area Agencies on Aging National Association of Counties National Association of Directors of Nursing Home Administration in Long Term Care National Association of Legal Services Developers National Association of Local Long Term Care Ombudsmen National Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Programs National Association of Orthopedic Nurses National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers National Association of Senior Legal Help lines National Association of Social Workers National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc. National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare *National Council on Aging National Council on Child Abuse & Family Violence National Education Association-Retired National Family Caregivers Association National Funeral Directors Association National Guardianship Association National Hispanic Council on Aging National Indian Council on Aging National Senior Citizens Law Center National Silver Haired Congress Nebraska State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Nevada State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Nevada County (California) Department of Adult & Family Services New Britain Area Seniors, CT New Hampshire Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program New Mexico Guardianship Association New Mexico State Agency on Aging New Mexico State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program New York Citizens' Committee on Aging New York City Department for the Aging New York Foundation for Senior Citizens Guardian Services New York State Coalition on Elder Abuse New York State Society on Aging Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging Northern Area Agency of Aging, WI Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs **Nursing Home Monitors** Office of Ombudsman for Older Minnesotans Ohio Association of Probate Judges Ohio Association of Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services Ohio Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Older and Disabled Adult Services/Solano County Health and Social Services Older Women's League **Ombudsman for Older Minnesotans** Oneida County Elder Abuse Coalition, NY Orange County Vulnerable Adult Specialist Team, CA Palm Beach County Courthouse, FL Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (AAA), PA Pima Council on Aging, AZ Pinal County Attorney's Office, AZ

A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA

Pinal County Public Fiduciary, AZ Pinal-Gila Elder Abuse Specialist Team, AZ Police Executive Research Forum Rhode Island Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Riverside County Office on Aging, CA Rockdale County Adult Protective Services, GA San Francisco Consortium for Elder Abuse Prevention San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services San Francisco Department of Human Services Santa Clara County Department of Aging and Adult Services Senior & Adult Services of Cuyahoga County, OH Senior Citizens, Inc., TN Senior Protective Ministry SeniorLAW Center, PA Seniors 'N Sync, LLC, VA SLTCO of Iowa SOLACE Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging, CA Stanislaus County Adult Services Advisory Committee, CA Stanislaus County Community Services Agency, CA Stanislaus Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance, CA Stop Family Violence, NY Suburban Area Agency on Aging, IL Tanana Chiefs Conference Texas Dept. of Family & Protective Services Texas Elder Abuse and Mistreatment Institute Texas Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman The Alliance for Retired Americans, DC The Burden Center for the Aging, NY The Center for Social Gerontology, Inc. The Long Term Ombudsman Council of Broward County, FL TRIAD United Jewish Appeal Federation of New York United Jewish Communities Upstate Medical University Binghamton Clinical Campus CARES Project, NY Ventura Adult Abuse Prevention Council, CA Vermont Ombudsman Project Virginia Coalition on Aging Virginia Elder Rights Coalition Virginia Hospital Center Virginia Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Washington County, Oregon Elder Abuse MDT Washington State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Wellspring Personal Care Western Montana Chapter for the Prevention of Elder Abuse Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, OH Wider Opportunities for Women Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care Wisconsin Social Services Association WordBridges Wyoming Dept of Health/Aging Division

Individual Members: 325

Pamela Aalderink Sarah Albert Nancy Alterio Debbie Armstrong Georgia Anetzberger Ben Antinori Moya Atkinson John Attwood

THE ELDER JUSTICE COALITION A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA JOHN B. BREAUX, HONORARY CHAIR • ROBERT B. BLANCATO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Susan Aziz Nora J. Baladerian. Ph.D. Shantha Balaswamy (OH) Dave Baldridge Doris Ball Rick Barry Cheryl Bartholomew (VA) Virginia Bell Bill Belzner Brenda Bensman Louis Blancato, MD Bennett Blum, MD Patricia Bomba, MD Sybil Boutilier (CA) Betty Bowers Karen Buck Jamie Buckmaster (CA) Kelly Bradford Bonnie Brandl Michelle Brannon Sarah Briggs Sharon Brigner Bernadine Brooks Richard Browdie Dr. Patricia Brownell Karen C. Buck Mark I. Burnstein, MD Tracey E. Burnstein, MS, HSA Bobbi Butler Gordon Butler Paul Caccamise (NY) Stephanie Carr **Richard Carriere** Ashley Carson Susan Castano Curtis B. Clark, MD Kathy Cilley-Wagner Patricia Ciripompa Ruth Coberly (CO) Laura Stewart Cockman Walter Coffey Joshua Cohen Valarie Colmore Ken Connor Michael Cottone Loree Cook-Daniels Mary Counihan Ed Coyle Dr. Lawrence Cranberg Susan Crone Kathy Cubit Neely Dahl Sophia Dalle Carol Dayton, ACSW, LISW Alice Deak Domingo Delgado Joyce DeMonnin Annette DePauli (CA) Farrell Didio Alison Dieter (TX) Maggie Donahue Judith Dorsett Jennifer Duft Joy Duke Susan Emmer Susan Era Diane Fassel Bob Fells Susan Ferlauto Mara Ferris (NH) Elizabeth Figueroa, CSW, MPA Marcella Fierro, MD **Rich Fiesta** Jim Firman Ivy Firouztale Marta Fontaine (MO) Janet Forlini Robert Franz Iris Freeman

David Gammill Oscar Garcia Manuel Garcia Barbara Gay Lori Gerber Stanley M. Giannet, Ph.D. Pasquale Gilberto Robert Goldberg Gary Gotham AC Graber (WA) Rebecca Gray (NC) Sasha Greene Marsha Greenfield Paul Greenwood Stanley Habib A. Ricker Hamilton Cathy Hart Roberta Hawkins Alice Hayes Marshall Hayes Meg Heap June Hebb Jonathan Heller Jayd Hendricks Gema Hernandez Fay Hewitt M.S.W. Donna Hicks Alison Hirschel Bonnie Hogue Katrina Hotrum Peg Horan Ann Howard Laura Howard Sam Hubbard Joan Hurdle, RN (VT) Kary Hyre Kathryn leada, CPA Paula Inglese Peggy Ingram Dale Jackson Tim Jackson Michelle Jacobs Mary Charlene Johns Patricia Johnson Gilda Johnstone Rene Jones Tom Joseph Alecia Juber Cindy Kadavy Mitchell Karasov Dale Kassan Norm Katz Linda Keegan Kathleen Kelso John Paul Kenney (MD) **Richard Keys** Steffanie Keys Joanne Keyston Anne Kincaid Valerie King Violet King Kathy Klatzke Amy Knight (TN) Diana Koin Lvnn Koontz Elaine Korthals Linda Kretz Catherine Kruger Becky Kurtz Janice Langford (FL) Tom Laughlin Dr. Tomas Larrieux Jon Lavin Debi Lee David Leopard Vickijo Letchworth Nina Levigne Bryan Liang Carol J. Lieske

Brian Lindberg Karin Linenberger Elizabeth Loewy Janet Lombard Karen Love Rebecca Ludens Nadine Luian Jack Mack Jackie Majoros Beatrice A. Maloney, CSW Sandy Markwood Irene Masiello Art Mason Margaret S. McCarthy George E. McClane Marcy McCrumb John McDermott Mary McKenna Winnie McLin Kate McWhinney Melissa Medick Jennifer Merck Carol Merlini Nina Merer Kathy Miller Robert D. Miller Patty Mitchell Paula Mixson Lu Molberg Ricker Mooers Ailee Moon, Ph.D. Paula Moreau Gary Morgan Rebecca Morgan Cal Morken Scott Morken Debra Morrow, MSW (CA) Laura Mosqueda, MD Michael Munson Mary Brugger Murphy Chris Nelson Rudy Norris Jim Nyberg Jeanne O'Brien Nora O'Brien Joanne Otto Mark Pafford (FL) Lisabeth Passalis-Bain Brian K. Payne, Ph.D. Stacey Payne Roxanne Perales Noel Peters Crystal Peterson Jeanne Pici Les Plooster Martha Plotkin Dianna Porter George Potaracke Mebane Powell Laura Prohov Ron Proudfoot Kathleen Quinn Mary Joy Quinn Dan Quirk Jane Raymond Jo Reed Kimberly Reed Lisa Reid Sandy Reynolds Betty Rhodes Esther L. Aguila Rivera Erin Rock Emily Ross Alfred Rotondaro Kathy Rotondaro Mary Martha Rugg Brenda Russell Charlie Sabatino Francine T. Saccio, ACSW

1612 K Street, NW Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20006 Phone: 202-682-4140 ◆ Fax: 202-223-2099 www.elderjusticecoalition.com ◆ elderjustice@verizon.net

A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA JOHN B. BREAUX, HONORARY CHAIR & ROBERT B. BLANCATO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Jim Wright

Diane Zielinski

Ann Yom

EJ Santos Kristin Schaer RN. MSN Frank Schersing Ellen Schmeding (CA) Sarah Schram Gail Schultz **Rita Schumacher** Carol Scott Patti Seager April Seitz Edward Sheehy Daniel J. Sheridan, PhD, RN Jean Sherman, Ed.D.RN Mark Sherman Mike Shetka, LCSW (CA) Chris Shoemaker Cynthia Shott Rob Shotwell Denise Shukoff Richard Sicchio Stephen J. Silverberg, JD Sarah Slocum Linda Smith (TN) Donny Smith Lori Smith Monica Smith (WI) Kaja Snell Matt Socknat Susan Somers Joseph Soos Helen Spencer Gail Spessert Ruth Spinale Pat Stanis Dennis Steele Lori Stiegel Terry Stone Patricia Storch, J.D. Sandy Storherr Sara Strope Donald Sullivan Sandra Sullivan Erika Taylor Grady Tarbutton Dorothy Thomas Natalie Thomas Randolph W. Thomas Robert Tiller Brenda Toline, R.N., B.S.N. Marie Tomlin Luci Ungar Catherine Valcourt Elaine Wadsworth Andre Waguespack Joy Ann von Wahlde, Attorney Bessie Walker (KS) Debra Wanser Sarah Warnke Dawn Washington Linda L. Watts Eric Weakly Patti West Teresa Baisley Webb (CA) Jane Weinheimer Jim Weiser Janet Wells Rebecka Westerfors Robin Cohen Westmiller Marilyn Whalen Larry White Megan Wiley (VA) Shayne Wilks Pamela Williams Karen Wilson Genevieve Wood Carol Woodcock Jacquie Woodruff Aileen Worrell Mitzi Wortman

A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA JOHN B. BREAUX, HONORARY CHAIR & ROBERT B. BLANCATO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Elder Abuse Cases/News Articles March 2008

New York (Rep. Weiner, Rep. Nadler)

"Pals' Scam 78-year-old Harlem woman out of \$15M Fortune" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/ywayns</u>

"Travel and Tour Operator Accused of Preying on Senior Citizens" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/yqmtu3</u> "Require Reporting of Elder Abuse" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/yqouq5</u>

"Inside an Animal Hoarder's House" - http://tinyurl.com/2tzc6c

"Six Civil Servants will be honors" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/2yf23w</u>

"New Scam Targets Elderly in Brooklyn" - http://tinyurl.com/2xtubf

"Congress and Albany must protect elders" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/224ym8</u>

"3 in Yates County jailed for photographing mentally handicapped Person" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/3xpmj2</u>

"Family sues Blossom South Nursing Home" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/36f22b</u>

"NY Report signals need to address Elder Abuse" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/27bn4o</u> "I-Team 10 Investigates: Livonia Man Accused of Bilking Elderly Women" – http://tinyurl.com/363gay

"Eden Park Nursing Home Cited Again for Deficiencies" - http://tinyurl.com/3d62wf

Texas (Rep. Jackson-Lee, Rep. Gohmert)

"Family Law councils Advocate for Relatives in Nursing Homes" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/389nlf</u> "Woman pleads not guilty to injury to elderly individual indictments" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/39mfuw</u>

"Family Reacts to Elderly Abuse Conviction" – <u>http://www.ksat.com/news/15570254/detail.html</u> "Ex-Nursing Home Exec Guilty of Fraud" –

http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/5602630.html

"Caretakers admits slapping elderly woman" – <u>http://www.ksat.com/news/15531198/detail.html</u> "APS honors three west Texans" – <u>http://www.cbs7.com/news/details.asp?ID=5074</u>

North Carolina (Rep. Coble)

"State to Report all deaths at mental health facilities" -

http://ww.wral.com/news/state/story/2635209/

"Justice often slow for Elder Crimes" – <u>http://newsobserver.com/news/story/991319.html</u>

"Dunmore Grandmother alleges Elder Abuse by Grandsons" - http://tinyurl.com/2mnwqe

"It's like Open Season on Seniors" - http://tinyurl.com/2ywhkv

Virginia (Rep. Scott)

"Sex Assault Charges Certified Against Adult Day Care Worker" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/2y72mt</u>

"Patient Advocate Makes Sure Seniors are Heard" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/33q735</u>

"Injunction Expanded in Elder Abuse Lawsuit" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/25jvmx</u>

"Gretna Man Sues Daughter" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/2f4rh6</u>

California (Rep. Waters, Rep. Lungren)

"Ex-Patton Employee Charged" – <u>http://www.sbsun.com/sanbernardino/ci_8737553</u>
"Panel Approves Wolk Bill to Increase Reporting Elder Abuse" – <u>http://www.californiachronicle.com/articles/56606</u>
"Pair Swindles Thousands from Elderly Woman" – <u>http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/810057.html</u>

"Mental Health Patients turn to clinics" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/3e2ogk</u>

1612 K Street, NW Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20006 Phone: 202-682-4140 ◆ Fax: 202-223-2099

A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA JOHN B. BREAUX, HONORARY CHAIR • ROBERT B. BLANCATO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR

"Officials deciding fate of filthy OC house" – http://knbc.com/news/15683087/detail.html "Mill Valley Caregiver Accused of throwing dving man's dog" http://www.marinij.com/ci 8657028 "Suit Filed, 7 arrested in Mortgage Fraud Ring" http://www.montereyherald.com/business/ci_8623095 "Seniors targeted in Scams" - http://www.modbee.com/business/story/240380.html "Martinez Nursing Home Comes under Federal Scrutiny" - http://winyurl.com/3a5sya "Antioch Man Arrested for beating his 78-year-old mom" http://www.insidebayarea.com/localnews/ci_8540724 "Fraud Case Postponed" - http://thereporter.com/news/ci 8544333 "Woman Sues After Arsenic Death" - http://ww.fresnobee.com/263/story/458132.html "Ashburn's Caregiver Background Checks Bill passes legislature, now goes to the governor" http://www.californiachronical.com/articles/54909 "Caregiver gets 3 months for videotaped assault" – http://tinyurl.com/23p67c "Officials to discuss filthy Villa Park Home" – http://tinyurl.com/274pgy "Deputies find mentally disabled adults in cockroach-infested house" - http://tinyurl.com/2vjhe4 "Whittier Man convicted in Fatal Beating of Father" – http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci 8482005 "Nurse facing 10 years in federal prison for Medicare Fraud" http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_8462331 "State Fines Nursing Homes \$100,000" - http://www.modbee.com/local/story/229305.html "Man accused of Scam Targeted at Elderly Arrested" http://nbc11.com/news/15457283.detail.html "Son Investigated for Elder Abuse in Filthy House Case" – http://tinyurl.com/3xxef7

Alabama (Rep. Davis)

"Cuts to DHR Could Eliminate Vital Adult Care Services" – <u>http://tinyurl.com2tyaod</u> "SEC Chariman discusses scams targeting seniors" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/39cm36</u> "Police: Scammer Targeting Elderly" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/2jy9g8</u>

Massachusetts (Rep. Delahunt)

"Arraignment set for Brockton elderly abuse suspect" - <u>http://tinyurl.com/yvpqdv</u>

"Police, Fire, Senior Care Advocates part of 'Traid'" - http://tinyurl.com/2rf8le

"Seniors Warned about new tax rebate scam" -

http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/state/x1379332448

"Methuen Man Charged with Sexual Assault of Retarded Relative" - http://tinyurl.com/378gmf

Georgia (Rep. Johnson)

"DHR urges you to report Elder Abuse" - <u>http://tinyurl.com/3sqvrd</u>

"Sales Tactics can put Seniors at Disadvantage" - http://tinyurl.com/yvf8db

"Nursing Home Employee Charged with Sodomy" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/2g3esg</u>

"Police: Elderly Cobb Man Killed Wife, Shot Himself" - http://tinyurl.com/2n59bt

"Elderly woman accused of stocking up on painkillers" -

http://www.wsbtv.com/news/15478087/detail.html

Wisconsin (Rep. Baldwin, Rep. Sensenbrenner Jr.)

"Waupun man charged with abusing elderly mother" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/28p794</u>

"Nursing Home sued over 2005 death" - <u>http://jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=723313</u>

Ohio (Rep. Sutton, Rep. Chabot)

"Woman gets 1 year in prison" - http://tinyurl.com/2dco2a

1612 K Street, NW Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20006 Phone: 202-682-4140 ◆ Fax: 202-223-2099

A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA JOHN B. BREAUX, HONORARY CHAIR • ROBERT B. BLANCATO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR

"Mansfield Police Arrest Suspect in Car Repair Scam Targeting Elderly" –

http://tinyurl.com/ys5yn5

"Protecting seniors from abuse" - http://tinyurl.com/36kz6q

"Relatives in dark over man's death" – <u>http://tinyurl.com/yud861</u>

"Nursing Homes 'deplorable' – <u>http://tinyurl.com/2qzssh</u>

"Couple arrested in alleged elderly scam" - http://www.whiotv.com/news/15568368/detail.html