

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. \_\_\_\_\_

Designating June 15, 2025, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day” and the month of June 2025 as “Elder Abuse Awareness Month”.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# RESOLUTION

Designating June 15, 2025, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day” and the month of June 2025 as “Elder Abuse Awareness Month”.

Whereas, in 2021, approximately 55,800,000 residents of the United States, or about 1 in every 6 individuals, had attained the age of 65, and by 2060, 95,000,000 individuals in the United States, or about 1 in every 4 individuals, will be over the age of 65, according to estimates by the Bureau of the Census;

Whereas, in 2034, it is anticipated that older adults will outnumber children for the first time, according to the Bureau of the Census;

Whereas elder abuse remains a challenging problem and can come in many different forms, often manifesting as phys-

ical, sexual, or psychological abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, and social media abuse;

Whereas elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation have no boundaries and cross all racial, social, class, gender, and geographic lines, according to the Elder Justice Coalition;

Whereas about 1 in 10 adults over the age of 60 are subjected to abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation each year, according to the National Institute on Aging;

Whereas the annual loss by victims of financial abuse over the age of 60 is estimated to be at least \$28,300,000,000, according to the National Council on Aging;

Whereas for older adults over the age of 60, the Department of Justice reported the following scam-related financial losses for 2023—

- (1) \$1,200,000,000 from investment scams;
- (2) \$590,000,000 from tech support scams;
- (3) \$382,000,000 from business email compromise scams;
- (4) \$356,000,000 from romance scams; and
- (5) \$179,000,000 from government impersonation scams;

Whereas older adults reported losses of \$4,885,000,000 related to internet scams and fraud in 2024, and filed over 147,000 complaints related to internet crimes, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Whereas adults over the age of 60 are less likely than younger adults to report losing money to fraud according to the Federal Trade Commission;

Whereas most reported cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults take place within private homes,

and approximately 90 percent of the perpetrators in elder financial exploitation cases are family members or other trusted individuals, according to the National Adult Protective Services Association;

Whereas research suggests that elderly individuals in the United States who experience cognitive impairment, physical disabilities, or isolation are more likely to become the victims of abuse than those who do not experience cognitive impairment, physical disabilities, or isolation;

Whereas other risk factors for elder abuse can include low social support, poor physical health, and experience of previous traumatic events, according to the National Center on Elder Abuse;

Whereas close to half of elderly individuals who suffer from dementia will experience abuse during their lifetime, according to the Department of Justice;

Whereas only 1 in 24 cases of elder abuse is reported, and only 1 in 44 cases of elder financial exploitation is reported, according to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the emergence of new scams against older adults, including those related to vaccines;

Whereas more than 1 in 5 older persons reported elder abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic, an over 80 percent increase from previous years, according to the National Institute of Health;

Whereas, during the last 5 years, Congress passed and the President signed 2 measures that make nearly \$400,000,000 available for implementation of the initiatives under the Elder Justice Act of 2009 (subtitle H of

title VI of Public Law 111–148; 124 Stat. 783), the largest funding stream related to such initiatives in the history of the Act; and

Whereas Congress, in passing the Elder Justice Act of 2009 (subtitle H of title VI of Public Law 111–148; 124 Stat. 783), the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (34 U.S.C. 21701 et seq.), the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2; 135 Stat. 4), and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 1182), recognized the importance of protecting older people of the United States against abuse and exploitation: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) designates June 15, 2025, as “World Elder  
3       Abuse Awareness Day” and the month of June 2025  
4       as “Elder Abuse Awareness Month”;

5               (2) recognizes—

6               (A) judges, lawyers, adult protective serv-  
7       ices professionals, law enforcement officers, so-  
8       cial workers, health care providers, advocates  
9       for victims, and other professionals and agen-  
10      cies for their efforts to advance awareness of  
11      elder abuse;

12              (B) the important work of the Elder Jus-  
13      tice Coordinating Council, which has continued  
14      through the previous 3 Presidential administra-

1           tions and involves 15 different Federal agen-  
2           cies;

3           (C) the essential work done by adult pro-  
4           tective services personnel, who regularly come  
5           to the assistance of victims, investigate reports  
6           of abuse, and actively prevent future victimiza-  
7           tion of older people in the United States, espe-  
8           cially during the COVID–19 pandemic as the  
9           social isolation of elderly individuals, due to  
10          stay-at-home orders, only increased the risk of  
11          abuse and neglect; and

12          (D) the importance of supporting State  
13          long-term care ombudsman programs, which  
14          help prevent elder abuse and neglect in nursing  
15          homes and other long-term care facilities, where  
16          infection prevention and control deficiencies  
17          pose persistent challenges;

18          (3) applauds the work of the Elder Justice Coa-  
19          lition and its members, whose efforts to increase  
20          public awareness of elder abuse have the potential to  
21          increase the identification and reporting of this  
22          crime by the public, professionals, and victims, and  
23          can act as a catalyst to promote issue-based edu-  
24          cation and long-term prevention; and

25          (4) encourages—

1 (A) members of the public and profes-  
2 sionals who work with older adults to act as  
3 catalysts to promote awareness and long-term  
4 prevention of elder abuse—

5 (i) by reaching out to local adult pro-  
6 tective services agencies, State long-term  
7 care ombudsman programs, and the Na-  
8 tional Center on Elder Abuse; and

9 (ii) by learning to recognize, detect,  
10 report, and respond to elder abuse;

11 (B) private individuals and public agencies  
12 in the United States to continue work together  
13 at the Federal, State, and local levels to combat  
14 abuse, neglect, exploitation, crime, and violence  
15 against vulnerable adults, including vulnerable  
16 older adults, particularly in light of limited re-  
17 sources for vital protective services; and

18 (C) those Federal agencies with responsi-  
19 bility for preventing elder abuse to fully exercise  
20 such responsibilities to protect older adults,  
21 whether such older adults are living in the com-  
22 munity or in long-term care facilities.