

The Elder Justice Coalition

A National Advocacy Voice for Elder Justice in America
John B. Breaux, Honorary Chair ♦ Robert B. Blancato, National Coordinator

Senator Gillibrand and Senator Schumer have not yet become co-sponsors of the Elder Justice Act (S. 795.) Please contact them and ask that they support this crucial piece of legislation!

Senator Gillibrand

478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4451

Senator Schumer

313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-6542

Also, please contact your Representative.

**For resources or if you have questions, please contact Shannon Donahue at the Elder Justice Coalition by emailing sdonahue@matzblancato.com or calling 202-682-4140.*

A Message to the NY Congressional Delegation:

“Please support health care reform that includes the Elder Justice Act. The Senate bill includes S. 795, which would dedicate important new resources to the prevention of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. At the present time, the House health care reform bill does not include the Elder Justice Act. The final bill must include these provisions to protect our most vulnerable seniors from the ravages of abuse and neglect. The time is now and the opportunity is here. Support elder justice in health care reform!”

The Elder Justice Coalition

A National Advocacy Voice for Elder Justice in America
John B. Breaux, Honorary Chair ♦ Robert B. Blancato, National Coordinator

ELDER JUSTICE ACT SUMMARY

Authorizes \$757 million over 4 years for the Elder Justice Act.

Establishes an Elder Justice Coordinating Council to make recommendations to the Secretary of HHS on the coordination of activities of Federal, State, local and private agencies and entities relating to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. Recommendations contained in report due in 2 years.

Establishes a 27 member Advisory Board on Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation. They are to submit a report within 18 months to create a short and long-term multidisciplinary strategic plan for the developing field of elder justice.

Adult Protective Services (APS) funding. Provides \$400 million in first-time dedicated funding for adult protective services. Provides \$100 million for state demonstration grants to test a variety of methods to detect and prevent elder abuse.

Provides \$26 million for establishment and support of Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Forensic Centers to develop forensic expertise regarding and provide services relating to, elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Provides \$32.5 million in grants to support the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and an additional \$40 million in training programs for national organizations and State long-term care ombudsman programs.

Authorizes \$67.5 million in grants to enhance long-term care staffing through training and recruitment and incentives for individuals seeking or maintaining employment in long-term care, either in a facility or a community based long-term care entity.

Authorizes \$48 million for a National Training Institute for Surveyors.

Requires the immediate reporting to law enforcement of crimes in a long-term care facility and establishes civil monetary penalties for failure to report.

Provides for penalties for long-term care facilities that retaliate against an employee for filing a complaint against or reporting a long-term care facility that violates reporting requirements.

Authorizes a \$500,000 study on establishing a national nurse aide registry.

Authorizes \$15 million for the Department of Health and Human Services to improve data collection and dissemination, develop and disseminate information related to best practices related to adult protective services and to conduct research related to APS.

Establishes a nationwide program for national and state background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities, and provides \$160 million in funding.

Related Provisions in the Finance Committee Bill

Provisions in S.795 related to additional reporting of data on CMS's Nursing Home Compare (e.g. crimes in facilities) were moved to the section of the bill dealing with nursing home transparency requirements (S.647.)

Provisions in S.631 to create a national program of criminal background checks for nursing home employees (a part of the original Elder Justice Act) were included in the Finance Committee bill.