



National Adult Protective Services Association

How to Advocate for Adult Protective Services

APS Provides Help and Hope to America's Vulnerable Adults

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Adult Protective Services (APS) has a chance for the first-ever designated federal appropriation. President Obama requested a modest \$16.5 million Elder Justice Act appropriation for APS demonstration projects in his 2012 budget request to Congress.

APS is the nation's ONLY victim services system which receives NO designated federal funding to serve extremely vulnerable victims of crime, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Many NAPSA members, as state or county employees, are concerned about publicly advocating for legislation. While you may not be able to contact your Senators and Representatives in your official capacity, you have the right to do so as an American citizen on your own time and using your own equipment.

Any NAPSA member, as a private citizen, can write, email and call your representatives in Congress to ask them to support appropriations for the EJA.

Here are some suggestions on how to do this safely and effectively:

- Always communicate from your personal phone, computer or stationary, and do so only on your personal time; never while you are on paid time.
- Do not mention your place of employment, but do say you have considerable experience in working with vulnerable adults or older persons, are very concerned about the growing problem of elder & vulnerable adult abuse, and know the tremendous need for victim services, research, training and awareness.
- Feel free to say that you are a member of the National Association of Adult Protective Services and that you are speaking on behalf of NAPSA.
- If asked, clarify that you are not representing your employing agency.
- Look for "town meetings" or other forums where the representative or senator meets with constituents, and attend if you can, or ask someone else to attend in your stead and directly ask for EJA support there.
- Encourage your family, friends and colleagues to advocate as well.
- Join NAPSA (email membership@apsnetwork.org), the Elder Justice Coalition (www.elderjusticecoalition.com) and local groups & participate in advocacy efforts.

The Elder Justice Act protects the health, safety, well-being and financial assets of older adults – our parents, grandparents and veterans.

Urge your Senators and Representative to protect elder victims and to save Adult Protective Services jobs by supporting the extremely modest \$16.5 million 2012 Administration budget request for the Elder Justice Act. To contact, copy and paste the links below into your web browser:

Senators: http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/senators/f_two_sections_with_teasers/states.htm
(click on your state)

Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/> (enter your zip code in box under map)