



Elder Justice Act – FY 2012 Appropriations Talking Points

“STOP ELDER ABUSE TODAY!”

Legendary Actor Mickey Rooney, March 2, 2011

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Elder abuse is deadly: (Note: research citations at www.apsnetwork.org)

- Elder victims are *three times* more likely to die than non-abused seniors.

Elder abuse is common:

- 7.6% of seniors report being abused, neglected or exploited within the past 12 months. This equals the US rate of coronary heart disease.
- One million people turn 60 every month
- There are up to *four times* more elder abuse victims than child abuse victims.

Elder abuse is expensive:

- Older abuse victims are *four times* more likely to go into a nursing home.
- 9% of financial abuse victims may turn to Medicaid as a result of the abuse (State of Utah study)

Elder abuse . . .

- Is under-reported: only one in *23.5 cases* is ever reported (only one in *44* financial exploitation cases).
- Occurs largely in older persons' own homes rather than in nursing homes (97% of seniors live at home).
- Is perpetrated by family members, caregivers, trusted advisors & strangers.

Adult Protective Services (APS):

- Is the 911 system for elder abuse and abuse of younger adults with severe disabilities. APS, the last resort for many victims, serves as the “*safety net for the safety net.*”
- 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.
- APS Program budgets are being slashed in states throughout the country as both the number and the complexity of cases increases substantially.

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

We urge you 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.