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**NCEA Launches National Campaign:
"Join Us" in the Fight Against Elder
Abuse**

As we enter Older Americans Month (May) and approach World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15th), the NCEA has embarked on a campaign to generate dynamic public involvement in raising awareness and preventing elder abuse. The tag line of the campaign is: *"Together, we have the power to prevent elder abuse."*

A focal point of the initiative is the upcoming *Elder Abuse Information Piece*, a 15-second video scheduled to run on hundreds of movie screens in major metropolitan areas throughout the U.S. from May 22nd through June 18th. The piece, which features actor and elder abuse awareness spokesperson William Mapother, will run before movie trailers prior to feature films. In conjunction, the NCEA has created a series of outreach materials to enlist and support activities to generate awareness and prevention.

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**See It. Film It. Change It: The National
Council on Aging and WITNESS Elder
Abuse Video Project**

When Jim Firman saw his first WITNESS video, the global human rights organization did not yet have an office in North America. That did not stop the president and CEO of the National Council on Aging (NCOA) from recognizing the potential of video storytelling to dramatically chronicle the overshadowed problem of elder abuse. Dr. Firman persisted in trying to engage WITNESS. When the advocacy group opened its North American office in Brooklyn, New York this past January, a determined group from NCOA, including Dr. Firman and Director of Communications, Georgiana Bloom, met with WITNESS representatives. Elder abuse became its first cause.

Video storytelling – ‘witnessing’ – can be a highly effective strategy to use when people don’t want to think about distasteful or abhorrent issues. “I think it’s a medium that lends itself to elder abuse because it’s very compelling to watch an older person saying ‘I want to tell you what’s happened to me,’” said Ms. Bloom, who is the liaison between NCOA and WITNESS. Kelly Matheson, WITNESS program coordinator for North America and a gifted filmmaker, is heading up the initiative. Chris Michael is the coordinator of the Hub, the WITNESS’ participatory media site for human rights that will host the videos, and through which the public can contribute their stories.

“The empowerment factor was very significant in NCOA’s desire to use video witnessing to tell the story of elder abuse. Being able to help people see themselves as survivors -- to get to a position of strength -- is vital to this project.” Ms. Bloom also noted that empowerment is a pervasive theme in

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NCOA-WITNESS Project *Continued from page 1*

all of NCOA's initiatives, which span a broad spectrum of elder rights issues including healthy aging, workforce development, civic engagement, access to benefits, and long-term services and supports.

Ms. Bloom believes that video storytelling puts a face on the issue, and shows the humanity of those who have experienced abuse.

In the coming weeks, approximately 20 key contacts from NCOA and other aging services networks will begin an intensive training (four 12-hour days) with WITNESS representatives in the nuts and bolts of video storytelling. Space has been donated for the project by the University of Southern California. Trainees will learn how to use regular video cameras and "flip videos," tiny, inexpensive, easy-to-use cameras ideal for internet technology. The first half of each day will be spent learning how to use video strategically within a campaign for change – specifically to help advocates to raise awareness about elder abuse, exploitation, and neglect. The second half of the day will focus on dos and don'ts of videography: best basic camera skills, composition, best practices for collecting sound, and basic principles of editing. In the afternoon, trainees will use their new skills to interview each other, as well as residents of a local affordable housing center for GLBT elders.

After the training, participants will go back to their respective fields and train others to use this technology to record personal stories in order to illuminate the issue and raise awareness. They will also be able to teach others how to use the flip video technology. The first goal is to post footage online in observance on *World Elder Abuse Awareness Day*, June 15th, followed by making videos to send to the media. They also plan to

make a longer, more polished core campaign video, chronicling stories of abuse.

Ms. Bloom is excited about the potential for using this technology. For example, video can easily be emailed to journalists covering aging issues. Narratives can be used in public or professional presentations to chronicle the impact of abuse on those who endure it. Footage can be shared on social networking sites, fully exploiting newer, cheaper technologies, and reaching diverse – *and younger* -- audiences. Ms. Bloom also envisions sharing footage at venues like independent bookstore and cafes, modern day versions of the Beat Generation coffee houses that foster social and civic engagement.

It is essential to note that written and verbal permissions are required of all participants who share their stories.

In acknowledging the impact of WITNESS, Ms. Bloom states, "They are skilled and they are fearless." The organization, founded in 1992 by musician and activist Peter Gabriel and the Reebok Human Rights Foundation, "uses video and online technologies to open the eyes of the world to human rights violations. WITNESS empowers people to transform personal stories of abuse into powerful tools for justice, promoting public engagement and policy change...." The organization has partnered with grassroots networks in over 60 countries.

The National Council on Aging is a non-profit service and advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, DC. NCOA is a national voice for older Americans – especially those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged – and the community organizations that serve them. It brings together non-profit organizations, businesses and government to develop creative solutions that improve the lives of all older adults. NCOA works with thousands of organizations across the country

to help seniors find jobs and benefits, improve their health, live independently and remain active in their communities. For more information, visit [www.ncoa.org](http://www.ncoa.org/content.cfm?sectionid=407) or go to <http://www.ncoa.org/content.cfm?sectionid=407> to post a story.

You can also submit a narrative through the Share a Story page of the WITNESS website at: <http://hub.witness.org/en/ElderJustice>

Join Us *continued from page 1*

To support the “Join Us” campaign, the NCEA developed the *Elder Abuse Information Packet*, tools organizations can use for outreach. The NCEA engaged many key networks involved in elder abuse response to distribute these tools across disciplines and down to the grassroots level. The electronic packets have been sent to APS, state units on aging, area agencies on aging, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, law enforcement, and other coalition and advocacy networks. The *Information Packet* materials are intended to support and enlist a broad range of awareness and prevention activities from individuals of all ages, as well as from community groups and other organizations. Suggested activities include ways to observe World Day as well as simple ideas that will be valuable at any time, such as visiting vulnerable seniors or volunteering in programs that promote the health, well-being, and independence of older individuals.

Elder Abuse Awareness Information Packet
What’s in the Box:

- A list of theaters showing the *NCEA Elder Abuse Information Piece*
- *Join Us - How You Can Help in the Fight Against Elder Abuse* – suggestions for individuals of all ages

- *Join Us – How Your Organization Can Generate Awareness & Foster Action in the Fight Against Elder Abuse*
- *Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse? – General audience*
- *Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse? – State Template Fact Sheet with Instructions* – for customizing with state-specific information
- *How to Answer Those Tough Questions about Elder Abuse* – suggestions for responding to inquiries from the public and the media
- *About the National Center on Elder Abuse* - an overview of the NCEA and its current priority activity areas

The fact and tip sheets may be downloaded and reproduced for distribution at public awareness events, conferences and presentations, health and senior fairs; distributed in mailings; made available in waiting rooms of healthcare practices, social and legal services clinics, etc.

Outreach materials from the “Join Us” campaign are now available online from the NCEA website at http://www.ncea.acl.gov/NCEAroot/Main_Site/About/Initiatives/Join_Us_Campaign.aspx. As materials are developed, they will be added to this section of the website. We encourage you to distribute these publications throughout your networks. *For questions or to obtain materials, email ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov.*

The NCEA is relying heavily on partnerships with key networks to engage their member organizations and frontline representatives to deliver the tools in the information packet as well as the message that *everyone* has a stake in addressing elder abuse. We would like to thank those of you who are participating in this ongoing process.

One of the first partners in the NCEA national public awareness project was the State of Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Kimberly

Baker, elder abuse specialist and policy analyst, and Jennifer Liebsen, of the Louisville Metro Coordinating Council on Elder Abuse, enlisted Mr. Mapother, a native Kentuckian, to act as spokesperson for the cause. The Cabinet and NCEA co-produced a series of public service announcements featuring Mr. Mapother. The series (executively produced by Ms. Baker and filmed by a production team headed by Bruce Johnson, Eastern Kentucky University), on which the *Elder Abuse Information Piece* is based, is available for viewing on the NCEA website in the Popular Downloads box at www.ncea.aoa.gov.

The NCEA commends Mr. Mapother and the State of Kentucky for their considerable and extensive involvement in elder abuse awareness and prevention.

The NCEA also wishes to thank members of the Elderabuse Listserve for contributing their ideas on prevention and awareness activities that have been incorporated into the information packet.

We invite you to visit the "Join Us" web page at: http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/NCEAroot/Main_Site/About/Initiatives/Join_Us_Campaign.aspx. To contribute your ideas for generating prevention, awareness, and promising practices by emailing: ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov.

Communities Mount Events as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Approaches

Annually, June 15th is designated as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (World Day). It provides an opportunity to shine a stark light on the under-recognized and under-reported global problems of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. World Day is an international opportunity to speak out for those

who are unable to speak for themselves. For the past several months, the NCEA has urged the elder abuse response network to write in to share their plans to commemorate World Day. Special thanks to our contributors from the field for the following updates:

Arizona

Stew Grabel, Ombudsman, Pima Council on Aging in Tucson, Arizona, shared the following information for the Council's Speak Out event, June 15th, at the Armory Park Senior Center, 220 S 5th Street, Tucson, Arizona, from 9:00 AM to noon.

"Pima Council on Aging, will be holding a 'Break the Silence about Elder Abuse' event on International Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Monday, June 15th. Senior citizens, caregivers, and others who work with or who are interested in stopping elder abuse and exploitation are welcome. The event will feature a 'speak out' at which seniors, vulnerable adults, and their loved ones can talk about scams, financial exploitation, neglect, and abuse of vulnerable adults. This year's session will emphasize financial exploitation, including a workshop on how and when a reverse mortgage can help and how to recognize when it is not appropriate. A panel of experts from the Pima County Law Enforcement Elder Abuse Task Force, Adult Protective Services, the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Health's Office of Facility Licensure, Pima Health Systems and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorney's will make presentations and answer questions regarding our topic."

California

APS supervisor Margarita Towe and director Paul Rozelle submitted the following update on Kern County's 12th annual conference to coincide with Older Americans' Month and the region's Elder Abuse Awareness Week. The 12th Annual Elder Abuse Prevention Conference is scheduled for May

13, 2009, from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, at Hodel's Country Dining (Highway 99 at Olive Drive) in Bakersfield, CA.

The topic is Domestic Violence in Later Life, featuring keynote address by researcher, educator, and consultant, Lisa Nerenberg, MSW, MPH. Additional guests include Mr. Rozell, Program Director of Protective Services, and Sandy Morris, Bakersfield Police Department. The conference is sponsored by Kern County Aging and Adult Services Department, Kern County Mental Health Department, Domestic Violence Advisory Council, Kern County Commission on Aging, and Community Partners. CEUs will be offered for various disciplines.

Information to be covered includes: Domestic Violence Cycle; Domestic Violence Grown Old; Late Onset of Domestic Violence (new relationships); Retaliation Domestic Violence; Elder Abuse by Family Members; Power and Control (threats, physical-sexual abuse, abuse by neglect, misuse of privilege, ridicule, financial exploitation, isolation); LGBT Domestic Violence in Older Adults; and Community Resources. There will also be a Senior Adult Victim Panel.

For more information, email Margarita Towe at towem@co.kern.ca.us.

Louisiana

Ralph O'Neil, Chairman of the St. Tammany SALT Council submitted the following information on its World Day conference, "Make the Call," June 15th, 7:30 AM to 4 PM, North Shore Harbor Center (100 Harbor Center Boulevard) in Slidell, Louisiana:

"We are really hoping to encourage folks from the entire region to attend....We are really pleased to have Paul Greenwood as our lead speaker! And the rest of the line-up is really impressive also: Harold Bartholomew is Paul's counter-part here in St. Tammany Parish. He is as committed and dynamic

as any advocate in the country. We also have the past and current directors of Elderly Protective Services as speakers, and the EA trainer for the local HCA hospital that has an excellent reputation and working arrangement with the local Elderly Protective Services office. We will also present two public forums the week of June 15th, but the dates, times, and locations are not yet firm.

For more information or to register, visit www.stsalt.org/events.html.

Massachusetts

Al Norman of Mass Home Care reported the following event:

"Mass Home Care, which is the statewide association of 23 Area Agencies on Aging in Massachusetts, is holding its 26th Annual Meeting on June 15th, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. We have invited Bob Blancato, who has worked in a key role on the Elder Justice Act at the federal level, to come to Massachusetts to speak on elder abuse, and recognize WEAAD. In addition, our member agencies operate the elder abuse/protective services program, and we will be recognizing these frontline workers, and inviting one of them to narrate the story of one of their elder abuse clients. We are expecting several hundred people statewide at this event...Our network also manages the largest Money Management program in the nation in partnership with AARP and the state's Executive Office of Elder Affairs."

According to Mr. Norman, descriptive materials for the event will be available in June. *For more information, email info@masshomecare.org.*

New York

On June 10th at 7:30 PM, Irene Masiello will be reading from her autobiographical, interactive book: *Paradise Costs - A Victim's Daughter Fights Back Against Elder Abuse*, with an afterword by

Bennett Blum, MD. She will be reading at the Integrative Healing Center at 1180 Northern Blvd., Suite 200, Manhasset, NY 11030. Call 516-676-0200 for more information.

Tennessee

Janet C. Lamb, Staff Attorney, Commission on Aging and Disability, Nashville reported the following details:

The Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability, in conjunction with the Tennessee Vulnerable Adult Coalition, is coordinating statewide observances of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, with the goal of having observances in all 95 counties. Partners in the effort include area senior centers and county agents, along with local Adult Abuse Coalitions. Participants throughout the state are being asked to wear purple and to distribute outreach and training material. The following are among the featured events:

- Memphis/Shelby County is hosting an event at the Central Hooks Library from 2-4 PM with exhibits and speakers focusing on how various agencies/groups/businesses are working together to address elder abuse.
- Greeneville is sponsoring a picnic.
- Nashville will hold its observance at the Knowles Senior Center, with a welcome by the Vice Mayor. Director of Consumer Affairs Mary Clement will speak on financial exploitation and a Metro Police officer will provide safety tips. There will also be a financial abuse Bingo game for the participants. An abuse survivor is tentatively scheduled to speak on his experience.
- PSAs are being filmed and recorded and will be sent to all media.

“We will use WEAAD to introduce our new website <http://www.tvaconline.org>, which is under construction. *And we continue to plan....”*

What is Your Community Doing to Commemorate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day?

The NCEA invites you to share what your community is doing to observe the 4th Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Your ideas may inspire another community or organization to take action to raise awareness or generate civic involvement in the fight against elder abuse. We will post updates in the June and July E-News.

To share your news, email NCEA-info@aoa.hhs.gov.

Media Moxie: Tips for Engaging the Media in the Fight Against Elder Abuse

On April 30th, the NCEA sponsored a webcast on how to engage the media in elder abuse awareness. The webcast was hosted by NCEA grantee, the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) and moderated by Moya Thompson, Public Information Officer, Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Social Services. The panel featured Tracy Breton, investigative journalist of the Providence Journal (Rhode Island), Dan Baron, former Chicago Tribune reporter and not-for-profit communications consultant, and Scott Parkin, Vice President of Communications, National Council on Aging.

Panelists highlighted strategies for marketing the issue of elder abuse which included accessing traditional news outlets (such as print media) but

also taking advantage of more innovative technologies. All of the panelists noted that it is vital to consider newer technologies as tools for promoting public awareness of elder abuse, in part because older individuals comprise the fastest growing demographic of internet users. Blogs that focus on aging issues, such as the New York Times' "[New Old Age](#)," or human/victims' rights, like Lisa Nerenberg's "[Prevent Elder Abuse](#)," are accessible forums for public discourse. Social communities like "[BOOMj](#)" and other networking sites; texting sites such as "[Twitter](#)"; and video advocacy projects, including WITNESS' "[The Hub](#)" and "[You Tube](#)," allow for the immediate broadcasting of messages and information.

Here are some recommendations from the Media Moxie Panelists:

Engaging the Media

- Do your homework. Learn which media services -- and which reporters -- cover aging issues and target your efforts to engage these people.
- Take time to develop relationships with journalists who are sympathetic to the cause; invite them to discuss the issues over a cup of coffee.
- Emphasize that elder abuse is especially important to cover in local newspapers and broadcasts, as the highest percentage of readers and viewers of local news are older individuals.
- Emphasize that the story will become even bigger; as the aging population grows the risk for abuse will also grow.
- Use press releases, *Letters to the Editors*, statements, and email through the organization's website to pitch story ideas.
- If you do phone to pitch a story, always ask if it is a good time to talk; if a reporter working against

a deadline, he or she may not be receptive to a new idea. Be sure to follow-up.

- Remember that it is important to personalize the story. If you have a client who is willing to talk about his or her experience, the issue becomes more dynamic and engaging.

Tips for Responding to the Media

- Know your messages. Identify three basic concepts that you want to convey and present these consistently when being interviewed.
- Use "message bridging" or phrases such as, "That's a good point, but..." "Let me add..." or "I'm proud to say..." to move conversation back to these basic concepts.
- Anticipate the questions. It is helpful to have a note with key messages and basic agency/region specific information on hand to answer frequently asked questions.
- Avoid using jargon; keep statements clear and concise.
- Stall if necessary. If you don't know the answer to something, ask if you can get back to them with more information, then follow-up.
- Remember to *smile*. Even the most seasoned spokesperson can get ruffled when being asked about difficult issues. Smiling helps us to relax during anxious moments.
- Offer to send additional information (such as a fact sheet or brochure), and follow-up. Also, ask if there are any other questions.
- Thank the interviewer for his or her time and interest, being mindful that these individuals are partners in publicizing the issue.

Interview Don'ts

- Don't overestimate your skill; take time to answer thoughtfully.
- Don't talk too much.
- Don't go off the record.
- Don't LIE!
- Don't be lulled by a friendly reporter to share business strategies or inner workings, or to answer hypothetical or speculative questions.

If you missed the webcast, you will soon be able to access the archived presentation from the NCEA website:

http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/NCEARoot/Main_Site/Library/Events_Webcast/Events_Archive.aspx

Funding Opportunities

Following are recently announced scholarship, grant, and other funding opportunities.

Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Assistance Systems

The U.S. Administration on Aging, Department of Health and Human Services, "plans to award up to eleven (11) cooperative agreements to support eligible states (see below) in developing approaches that will maximize the use of federal, state, and other funds by incorporating the utilization of senior legal helplines and other low-cost legal services mechanisms into the state legal services planning and development process....Each cooperative agreement will be funded at a federal share of approximately \$100,000 per year for a project period of three years, contingent upon the availability of federal funds. The intent of this announcement is to expand the Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Assistance Systems program (Model Approaches) beyond the initial thirteen

states which have been awarded AoA funding under this program...."

- **Application deadline:** June 30, 2009
- **For more information:**
<http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/index.aspx>

Helping Outreach Programs to Expand Grants

Helping Outreach Programs to Expand awards grants to improve outreach to, and services for, crime victims. Grassroots, nonprofit, community-based, and faith-based victim services organizations are among those eligible to apply.

- **Application deadline:** Open, dependent upon available funding.
- **For more information:**
<http://www.ovc.gov/fund/expandingoutreach/welcome.html>

Online Resource - *Secrets in America: The Crisis of Elder Abuse*

In this documentary, Stanislaus County Communications Director David Jones uses actual footage taken by friends and family throughout the country to depict real life cases of elder financial abuse and exploitation.

The video was produced with funding from Kaiser Permanente and the Stanislaus Community Foundation after the Stanislaus Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance announced that county reports of mistreatment had nearly doubled in recent years. Cornerstone Studios participated generously in the project, which features an appearance by actress Doris Roberts, best known for her role as Marie on "Everybody Loves Raymond." Ms. Roberts has been involved in a number of other elder abuse awareness projects.

The half hour long video is available for viewing at <http://www.secretsinamerica.org>. Prevention tips and community resources are also highlighted on the website. A limited number of DVDs are available for a suggested \$20 donation.

Federal Legislative Update – A Look at Legislation that May Impact the Lives of Older Americans

A quarterly look at federal legislative activity that may impact the lives of older Americans.

The Social Security Identity Theft Prevention Act (H.R.50), sponsored by Representative Mark Kirk (R, IL-10) and co-sponsored by Representative Peter Roskam (R, IL-6) was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. The stated goal of the proposed bill is “to protect seniors from identity theft and strengthen our national security by providing for the issuance of a secure Social Security card.”

- H.R.50>> http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:50ih.txt.pdf

The Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2009 (H.R.448), sponsored by Representative Joe Sestak (D, PA-7) and co-sponsored by Representatives John Conyers (D, MI-14), Peter King (R, NY-3), and Robert Scott (D, VA-3) gained the additional co-sponsorship of Representatives Elijah Cummings (D, MD-7) and Ted Poe (R, TX-2). On February 11, 2009, the bill was passed in the House, as amended, 397-25, and was received in the Senate, read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The stated goal of the bill is “to protect seniors in the United States from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse, to provide training to prosecutors and other law enforcement related to elder abuse prevention

and protection, to establish programs that provide for emergency crisis response teams to combat elder abuse, and for other purposes.”

- H.R.448: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:448rfs.txt.pdf.

The Social Security Caregiver Credit Act of 2009 (H.R.769), sponsored by Representative Nita Lowey (D, NY-18) was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. The stated goal of the bill is “to amend title II of the Social Security Act to credit prospectively individuals serving as caregivers of dependent relatives with deemed wages for up to five years of such service.”

- H.R.769>> http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:769ih.txt.pdf

The Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization of 2009 (H.R.908), sponsored by Representative Maxine Waters (D, CA-35), with 23 co-sponsors, was introduced into the House on February 4, 2009 and passed by voice vote on February 10. On February 11, the bill was received in the Senate, read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The stated goal of the bill is “to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program.”

- H.R.908>> http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:908rfs.txt.pdf

The Elder Serve Act of 2009 (H.R.973), was introduced to the House on February 10, 2009, and was referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security on March 16. The bill is sponsored by Representative John Yarmuth (D, KY-3). The stated goal of the bill is “to

establish pilot programs that provide for emergency crisis response teams to combat elder abuse.”

- H.R.973>> http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h973ih.txt.pdf

The Elder Abuse Prevention Act (H.R.1374), sponsored by Representative Ben Chandler (D, KY-6), was introduced into the House on March 6, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. On March 16, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. The stated goal of the bill is “to prevent the abuse and exploitation of older individuals.”

- H.R.1374>> http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h1374ih.txt.pdf

The Community Choice Act of 2009 (H.R.1670), sponsored by Representative Danny Davis (D, IL-7), with 68 co-sponsors, was introduced to the House on March 23, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The stated goal of the bill is “to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide individuals with disabilities and older Americans with equal access to community-based attendant services and supports, and for other purposes.”

- H.R.1670>> http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h1670ih.txt.pdf

The Community Choice Act of 2009 (S.683), sponsored by Senator Tom Harkin (D, IA), with 20 co-sponsors, was introduced into the Senate on March 24, 2009, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Finance. It is described as “A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide individuals with disabilities and older Americans

with equal access to community-based attendant services and supports, and for other purposes.”

- S.683>> http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:s683is.txt.pdf

Kristen’s Act Reauthorization of 2009, National Silver Alert Act 2009 (H.R.632), sponsored by Representative Lloyd Doggett (D, TX-25), with 22 co-sponsors, was introduced to the House on January 22, 2009, and passed the House by voice vote on February 10. On February 11, the bill was received in the Senate, read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The stated goal of the bill is “to encourage, enhance, and integrate Silver Alert plans throughout the United States, to authorize grants for the assistance of organizations to find missing adults, and for other purposes.”

- H.R.632>> http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h632eh.txt.pdf

Kristen’s Act Reauthorization of 2009, National Silver Alert Act (S.557), was introduced to the Senate on March 10, 2009, was read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The bill is sponsored by Senator Mel Martinez (R, FL) and co-sponsored by Senators Robert Casey (D, PA), John Kerry (D, MA), and Herb Kohl (D, WI). The stated goal of the bill is to “...to encourage, enhance, and integrate Silver Alert plans throughout the United States, to authorize grants for the assistance of organizations to find missing adults, and for other purposes.”

- S.557>> http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:s557is.txt.pdf

The Elder Justice Act of 2009 (S.795) is sponsored by Senator Orrin Hatch (R, UT) and co-sponsored

by Senators Sherrod Brown (D, OH), Herb Kohl (D, WI), Blanche Lincoln (D, AR), Olympia Snowe (R, ME), and Debbie Stabenow (D, MI). The bill was introduced to the Senate on April 2, 2009, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Finance. It is described as “a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

(H.R.2006), sponsored by Representative Peter King (R, NY-3), with 8 co-sponsors, was referred to the House Committees on Ways and Means, Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor on April 21, 2009, to consider provisions relevant to each committee.

- S.795>> http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:s795is.txt.pdf
- H.R.2006>> Not yet available online.

(S.AMDT.990), sponsored by Senator Herb Kohl (D, WI), is an amendment to S.386 “Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009”, with the stated goal “to protect older Americans from misleading and fraudulent marketing practices, with the goal of increasing retirement security.” The amendment was proposed on April 23, 2009, and considered by the Senate on April 27. It was declared as non-germane.

- S.AMDT.990 >> Not yet available online.
- An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Special Committee on Aging (S.RES.45),* sponsored by Senator Herb Kohl (D, WI), was introduced to the Senate on February 12, 2009 and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration. The bill “authorizes expenditures by the Senate Special Committee on Aging for the 111th Congress.”
- S.RES.45 http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:sr45rs.txt.pdf

The Fairness in Nursing Home Arbitration Act (S.512), sponsored by Senator Mel Martinez (R, FL) and co-sponsored by Senators Richard Durbin (D, IL), Russell Feingold (D, WI), and Herb Kohl (D, WI), was read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary on March 3, 2009. The bill description says that it “provides that a pre-dispute arbitration agreement between a long-term care facility and a resident (or anyone acting on the resident's behalf) shall not be valid or specifically enforceable.”

- S.512>> http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:s512is.txt.pdf.

The Caring for an Aging America Act of 2009 (S.750), sponsored by Senator Barbara Boxer (D, CA) and co-sponsored by Susan Collins (R, ME), was introduced to the Senate on March 31, 2009, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. It is described as “a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to attract and retain trained health care professionals and direct care workers dedicated to providing quality care to the growing population of older Americans.”

- S.750>> http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:s750is.txt.pdf.

Special thanks to David Wihry of the University of Delaware Center for Community Research and Service for compiling this update.

Calendar of Events

May 14 – 16, 2009

Equal Justice Conference
Double Tree Hotel Universal Orlando
Orlando, Florida

Web site:

<http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/ejc/>

May 22 - June 18, 2009

Elder Abuse Information Piece
15-second video to be viewed as pre-movie trailer
Major metropolitan areas throughout US
Web site: <http://www.ncea.acl.gov>

May 27 – 29, 2009

Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (VCPEA)
15th Annual Conference
Virginia Beach Resort & Conference Center
2800 Shore Drive
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Web site:
http://www.seniornavigator.org/VCPEA/vcpea_mai_n_content.php

June 2, 2009

Fourth Annual New York City Elder Abuse Conference
Safety in a Storm: Identification and Prevention of Elder Abuse
The New School Institute for Retired Professionals
12 West 66th Street
New York, New York
Email: nyc_elderabuseconference2009@gmail.com

June 15, 2009

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
Global Observance
Web site: <http://www.inpea.net>

June 22 – 24, 2009

National Center for Victims of Crime National Conference
Hyatt Regency Washington Capitol Hill
Washington, DC
Web site: <http://www.ncvc.org>

July 5, 2009

My World... Your World... Our World... Free of Elder Abuse
Paris, France
Web site:
<http://www.inpea.net/weaad/weaad2009paris.html>

July 19 – 22, 2009

N4a Annual Conference and Trade Show:
Highlighting INNOVATIONS in Aging
Minneapolis, MN
Web site: <http://www.n4a.org>

August 24-26, 2009

2009 Florida Conference on Aging
Trade Winds Island Resort
St. Pete Beach, Florida
Web site: <http://www.fcoa.org>
Telephone: 850-222-8877

September 21 - 26, 2009

Institute on Violence, Abuse & Trauma: 14th International Conference on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma
Town and Country Resort and Convention Center
San Diego, California
Email: ivatconf@alliant.edu
Web site: <http://www.ivatcenters.org>

September 30-October 2, 2009

National Professional Training Conference on Responding to Crime Victims with Disabilities
Hyatt Regency Denver Convention Center
Denver, Colorado
<http://www.register123.com/event/profile/web/in dex.cfm?PKwebID=0x125952abcd>

October 27 – 30, 2009

20th Annual NAPSA Conference/26th Annual Texas
APS Conference
El Tropicano Holiday Inn
San Antonio, Texas
Email: APSConference@dfps.state.tx.us
Web site: <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us>
Telephone: 210-223-9461

Credits and Contact Information

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Contact Us:

National Center on Elder Abuse
c/o Center for Community Research and Services
University of Delaware
297 Graham Hall
Newark, DE 19716

Website: <http://ncea.acl.gov>
Email: ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov
Telephone: 302-831-3525

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- National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
- Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly, University of Delaware (CANE-UD)

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