



The National
CONSUMER VOICE
for Quality Long-Term Care
formerly NCCNHR

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The Honorable Ron Wyden
U.S. Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (Consumer Voice) strongly commends your Dear Colleague letter to Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Moran in support of the \$25 million Elder Justice Appropriation in the FY 2015 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill. As the leading national voice representing long-term care consumers, the Consumer Voice supports programs that will make the prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation a top national priority.

As you know, elder abuse in this country is prevalent and has dire consequences for millions of individuals and families as well as the communities in which they reside. There are currently 5 million elder abuse victims in America, and for every case that is reported, 24 go unreported. An astounding one in two individuals with dementia is a victim of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Numbers like this make it critical to fund the \$25 million Elder Justice Appropriation this year.

The provisions of the Elder Justice Initiative are part of the Elder Justice Act that passed with the Affordable Care Act, but were never funded. In fact, federal funding has never been appropriated to establish a national infrastructure for Adult Protective Services. This means there is currently no national database nor national standards to provide reliable data and guidance on conducting abuse case investigations. Nor is there adequate research in areas such as elder abuse screening. Your support of the \$25 million appropriation makes it more likely that Adult Protective Services programs will obtain the resources they need to better investigate and address elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

On behalf of the vast numbers of older adults who are abused and neglected every day in the United States, we thank you for your efforts and your support.

Sincerely,

Richard Gelula, Executive Director

The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (formerly NCCNHR) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization founded in 1975 by Elma L. Holder that advocates for quality care and quality of life for consumers in all long-term-care settings.