

Below is an example of a letter to a Representative or Senator that can be sent in an email. You may cut & paste the contents into the body of an email or into a document on your own letterhead.

To find your representative, visit www.house.gov. To find your Senator, visit www.senate.gov.

Dear Representative/Senator _____:

As a _____ (include any personal role i.e. social worker, elder abuse victim) and a constituent, I urge you to support funding for the President's FY 2015 budget request of \$25 million for the Elder Justice Initiative. There are currently 5 million elder abuse victims in America, and for every case that is reported, 24 go unreported. Estimated losses to older victims of financial exploitation are at a minimum \$2.9 billion per year and the direct medical costs associated with elder abuse exceed \$5 billion.

It is well documented that Adult Protective Services, the only agency in each state statutorily authorized to help abuse victims who are older and/or have a disability, lacks reliable data, standardization and adequate resources to investigate these cases of abuse and to intervene to protect the victims and their assets. In addition, there is a dearth of research about elder abuse, with very little known about the risk and protective factors for both the victim and perpetrator, as well as effective and evidence-based methods to reduce victimization.

The Elder Justice Initiative proposed in the President's budget addresses these issues. The Initiative includes \$13.8 million dollars to help Adult Protective Services through the creation and implementation of a national APS National Data System and to develop program standards and evaluation. It will also provide \$11.2 million for urgently needed research to create credible benchmarks for elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation prevention as well as effective program development and evaluation.

A federal investment in an APS data system, demonstration grants and research is an investment in the health and economic future of our nation. Please make Elder Justice a higher priority for our nation by supporting the President's budget request. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Title

Your Address

Your City, State, Zip

Your Phone Number