



Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

William (Larry) Minnix, Jr., Chair

November 6, 2006

SENT VIA FAX

US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

The undersigned members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) are writing to express our strong support for immediate passage of the Elder Justice Act (H.R. 4993) upon your return to Washington, DC for the lame duck session in November.

As you may be aware, the Senate Finance Committee unanimously passed the Elder Justice Act on August 3, 2006. This landmark legislation will make great strides in the fight to protect our vulnerable elderly from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. We urge you to actively support its consideration on the floor of the House its passage as early as possible in November. The Elder Justice Act was passed by the Finance Committee in the previous Congress, but never reached the House or Senate floor. This year, the House has another opportunity to do the right thing by passing this bill.

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations and many of its 53 organizations have played significant roles in the development of this critically important legislation. It is not an exaggeration to say that with each year that Congress fails to secure passage of this legislation, thousands of older adults needlessly suffer form abuse, neglect and exploitation. Many of the LCAO members see this tragedy first hand in their daily work.

No current federal law adequately and comprehensively addresses issues of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and there are very limited resources available to those in the field directly dealing with these issues. The Elder Justice Act would create the needed federal leadership in the form of a Coordinating Council and Advisory Board, and would provide resources to the states to develop and implement a nationally coordinated strategy to make elder justice a reality.

If you are not yet a cosponsor of the bill, please cosponsor, and let the leadership of the House know that you want to vote on the Elder Justice Act immediately. With your help, we can generate the momentum needed to remedy elder abuse and neglect.

Thank you for your work to promote the Elder Justice Act.

Sincerely,

*AARP
Alliance for Retired Americans
American Association for International Aging
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging*

American Geriatrics Society
American Society on Aging
B'nai B'rith International
The Gerontological Society of America
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs
National Association of State Units on Aging
National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc
National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Council On Aging
National Indian Council on Aging, Inc.
OWL, The Voice of Midlife and Older Women
United Jewish Communities



Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

William (Larry) Minnix, Jr., Chair

November 6, 2006

SENT VIA FAX

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The undersigned members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) are writing to express our strong support for immediate passage of the Elder Justice Act (S. 2010) upon your return to Washington, DC for the lame duck session in November.

As you may be aware, the Senate Finance Committee unanimously passed the Elder Justice Act on August 3, 2006. This landmark legislation will make great strides in the fight to protect our vulnerable elderly from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. We urge you to actively support its consideration on the floor of the Senate and its passage as early as possible in November. The Elder Justice Act was passed by the Finance Committee in the previous Congress, but never reached the House or Senate floor. This year, the Senate has another opportunity to do the right thing by passing this bill and sending it to the House for immediate consideration.

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations and many of its 53 organizations have played significant roles in the development of this critically important legislation. It is not an exaggeration to say that with each year that Congress fails to secure passage of this legislation, thousands of older adults needlessly suffer from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Many of the LCAO members see this tragedy first hand in their daily work.

No current federal law adequately and comprehensively addresses issues of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and there are very limited resources available to those in the field directly dealing with these issues. The Elder Justice Act would create the needed federal leadership in the form of a Coordinating Council and Advisory Board, and would provide resources to the states to develop and implement a nationally coordinated strategy to make elder justice a reality.

If you are not yet a cosponsor of the bill, please cosponsor, and let the leadership of the Senate know that you want to vote on the Elder Justice Act immediately. With your help, we can generate the momentum needed to remedy elder abuse and neglect.

Thank you for your work to promote the Elder Justice Act.

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