



**CALIFORNIA HEALTH ADVOCATES**  
Medicare: Policy, Advocacy and Education

May 22, 2024

The Honorable Bill Dodd  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 7610  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SUPPORT Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month (Dodd)**

Dear Senator Dodd,

On behalf of California Health Advocates, I am writing to express my unwavering support for SCR 153– the proposal to recognize the month of June 2024 and every year after as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month in California.

Elder abuse can affect any person of any ethnicity, background, and social status; occurring in both private residences and care facilities. On top of this, adults who face physical, mental, physical dependency, or medical influences may be affected or restricted in their capacity to protect, advocate or testify for themselves with proper authorities against perpetrators. Isolation and loneliness can also lead individuals into falling victim to abuses, such as online scams. Research conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Internet Crime Complaint Center indicate that over 101,000 victims over the age of 60 reported scam-related losses totaling approximately 3 billion dollars in 2023, an increase of 100 percent from 2021. Additionally, between 2022 and 2023, the California Department of Social Services – Adult Protective Services division reported approximately 266,000 individual allegations of neglect, 59,000 of which were instances of financial abuse. The same data reports 135,000 cases of physical neglect, a significant increase in reports from the prior year.

Many of California’s older adults face fears of repercussion, further mistreatment or harm, and distrust of agencies and authorities trying to assist. Older and dependent adults affected by financial harm may suffer damaging health outcomes such as high blood pressure and anxiety; both groups facing an inability to afford basic necessities due to financial hardship. Californians of all ages need to work together to combat crime and the ongoing violence against our older and dependent adult populations.

In recognizing of the importance and seriousness of elder abuse, SCR 153 would establish the month of June as Elder and Dependent Adult Awareness Month. This measure not only acknowledges this serious crisis in California but renews focus on this problem for legislators, advocates and stakeholders in order to join forces against elder abuse. It is critical for public awareness, prevention, and aide for supporting social, community, and service programs to stem abuse across the state.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Isidro', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Catherina Isidro  
Executive Director  
California Health Advocates  
[cisidro@cahealthadvocates.org](mailto:cisidro@cahealthadvocates.org)