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| *INSERT DATE*, 2022  The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  Member, Senate Appropriations Committee  331 Hart Senate Office Building  Washington, DC 20510  RE: ELDER PROTECTION FUNDING IN THE 2023 APPROPRIATIONS BILL  Dear Senator Feinstein,  *INSERT YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME* respectfully requests your help as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee in assuring robust 2023 funding for elder protective service programs, including the Elder Justice Act, Adult Protective Services, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, and restoration of Social Service Block Grant funding to the states. Given your seniority among the Appropriations Committee’s membership, we ask that you urge Chairman Leahy to avert program funding shortfalls now, before the new Congress is seated in 2023. Specifically, we write to request your rejection of the Senate’s proposed $6 million for the Elder Justice Act (EJA) for 2023 and urge your support for the House proposed appropriation of $80 million. Under the Senate’s proposal, California would receive a mere $602,662 for the entire state (under the House proposal, California would receive $8,035,500, which is still vastly inadequate to meet the growing demand for services). We urge these actions in conjunction with reauthorization of the Elder Justice Act, pending since 2014.  *Include information about your organization here.* (*Example: XXXX is a multidisciplinary membership organization providing a voice from the field in elder justice policy and practice. We promote the rights of older adults, including protection against age-based discrimination and elder abuse, and equitable access to resources, health care, and the legal system by those in greatest need*.)  The past two years of the pandemic have had a dramatic impact on our nation’s older adults, who suffered the brunt of COVID-19 infections and deaths, enduring social isolation and increased vulnerability to scams and exploitation. Once COVID vaccines became available and community-based services restored, the full impact of the isolation became apparent through the rapid rise in reports of abuse and exploitation. At that time, increased service needs were met with CARES Act and ARPA pandemic supports, but as we reach the end of those funds, the need has not diminished.  Sustained funding for APS is necessary to meet the needs of a growing older adult population and to continue the progress made using the CARES Act and ARPA funds. During that time, EJA programs received the largest allocations ever, jumping from $12 million in 2020 to $376 million in 2021.The influx of funding enabled states to make enormous strides in APS support and development. **In California, the funding provided grants to localities to improve APS coordination with other service providers, enabled technology upgrades to build or enhance communications systems, and improved partnerships with law enforcement**.Across the nation, the funds have been used to improve the consistency of APS services, implement evidence-based practices, enable ongoing case management for high-risk clients, and to strengthen recruitment and retention efforts to increase the capacity and diversity of staff.  These advances were wisely crafted to create stronger systems with one-time pandemic funds, but also were desperately needed to give APS the tools to address growing caseloads and increasingly complex cases. The skills and expertise needed to assist victims of these crimes are highly specialized, requiring social workers be trained not only in working with older and disabled victims, but in appropriate responses to prevent further harm. Providing this level of training and retaining competent staffing requires adequate and consistent funding from both the state and federal levels. Many state APS programs also rely on Social Service Block Grant funds, making it imperative that the freeze on these funds be lifted.  The pandemic additionally raised the visibility of the Older Americans Act’s Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP), which provides a vital lifeline to nursing home residents. Locked out of nursing homes in early 2020, the LTCOP has lost thousands of volunteers since that time, gutting the program’s ability to provide the visits and support that isolated residents desperately need. The dire pandemic outcomes for nursing home residents and continued failures of the industry make clear the importance of the Ombudsman’s frequent presence in facilities. Today, restoration of LTCOP capacity must be a priority. The President’s proposed 2023 LTCOP budget of $36 million is insufficient to support the number of professional Ombudsmen and to recruit and train the volunteers needed to protect vulnerable nursing home residents nationwide. *INSERT YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME* urges the Senate to adopt the $50 million proposed by the National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs to ensure the level of vigilance this work requires.  *INSERT YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME* joins the Elder Justice Coalition, the National Adult Protective Services Association and the Consumer Voice in urging swift reauthorization of the Elder Justice Act to reinforce this cornerstone of elder justice programs and Congress’ commitment to ensuring justice for older Americans. EJA Reauthorization combined with the requested protective service appropriations would for the first time bring these program budgets up to match actual service needs. |
| Thank you in advance for your advocacy on behalf of these essential programs.  Sincerely,  XXX |

\* NAPSA Funding Chart: 2023 Proposed Appropriations

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| **What would your state receive under House and Senate proposals?** | | | | |
| **Adult Protective Services State Formula Grant Funding Estimates** | | | | |
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| **FFY2023 House Bill - APS Formula Grants - $80 million** | |  | **FFY2023 Senate Draft Bill - APS Formula Grants - $6 million** | |
| **Total Amount** | **$80,000,000** |  | **Total Amount** | **$6,000,000** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Alabama | $1,164,559 |  | Alabama | $87,342 |
| Alaska | $600,000 |  | Alaska | $45,000 |
| Arizona | $1,767,900 |  | Arizona | $132,593 |
| Arkansas | $705,442 |  | Arkansas | $52,908 |
| California | $8,035,500 |  | California | $602,662 |
| Colorado | $1,192,816 |  | Colorado | $89,461 |
| Connecticut | $868,633 |  | Connecticut | $65,147 |
| Delaware | $600,000 |  | Delaware | $45,000 |
| Dist. of Columbia | $119,634 |  | Dist. of Columbia | $8,973 |
| Florida | $5,909,025 |  | Florida | $443,177 |
| Georgia | $2,140,151 |  | Georgia | $160,511 |
| Hawaii | $600,000 |  | Hawaii | $45,000 |
| Idaho | $600,000 |  | Idaho | $45,000 |
| Illinois | $2,811,430 |  | Illinois | $210,857 |
| Indiana | $1,500,868 |  | Indiana | $112,565 |
| Iowa | $750,413 |  | Iowa | $56,281 |
| Kansas | $652,501 |  | Kansas | $48,938 |
| Kentucky | $1,032,927 |  | Kentucky | $77,469 |
| Louisiana | $1,031,237 |  | Louisiana | $77,343 |
| Maine | $600,000 |  | Maine | $45,000 |
| Maryland | $1,339,557 |  | Maryland | $100,467 |
| Massachusetts | $1,607,975 |  | Massachusetts | $120,598 |
| Michigan | $2,433,383 |  | Michigan | $182,504 |
| Minnesota | $1,282,268 |  | Minnesota | $96,170 |
| Mississippi | $669,434 |  | Mississippi | $50,208 |
| Missouri | $1,456,692 |  | Missouri | $109,252 |
| Montana | $600,000 |  | Montana | $45,000 |
| Nebraska | $600,000 |  | Nebraska | $45,000 |
| Nevada | $688,812 |  | Nevada | $51,661 |
| New Hampshire | $600,000 |  | New Hampshire | $45,000 |
| New Jersey | $2,037,995 |  | New Jersey | $152,850 |
| New Mexico | $600,000 |  | New Mexico | $45,000 |
| New York | $4,495,238 |  | New York | $337,143 |
| North Carolina | $2,413,939 |  | North Carolina | $181,045 |
| North Dakota | $600,000 |  | North Dakota | $45,000 |
| Ohio | $2,811,391 |  | Ohio | $210,854 |
| Oklahoma | $870,629 |  | Oklahoma | $65,297 |
| Oregon | $1,030,371 |  | Oregon | $77,278 |
| Pennsylvania | $3,249,303 |  | Pennsylvania | $243,698 |
| Rhode Island | $600,000 |  | Rhode Island | $45,000 |
| South Carolina | $1,284,315 |  | South Carolina | $96,324 |
| South Dakota | $600,000 |  | South Dakota | $45,000 |
| Tennessee | $1,575,050 |  | Tennessee | $118,129 |
| Texas | $5,302,579 |  | Texas | $397,693 |
| Utah | $600,000 |  | Utah | $45,000 |
| Vermont | $600,000 |  | Vermont | $45,000 |
| Virginia | $1,882,454 |  | Virginia | $141,184 |
| Washington | $1,672,431 |  | Washington | $125,432 |
| West Virginia | $600,000 |  | West Virginia | $45,000 |
| Wisconsin | $1,412,143 |  | Wisconsin | $105,911 |
| Wyoming | $600,000 |  | Wyoming | $45,000 |
| American Samoa | $80,000 |  | American Samoa | $6,000 |
| Guam | $80,000 |  | Guam | $6,000 |
| Northern Marianas | $80,000 |  | Northern Marianas | $6,000 |
| Puerto Rico | $881,005 |  | Puerto Rico | $66,075 |
| Virgin Islands | $80,000 |  | Virgin Islands | $6,000 |