

SB 1320 – ELDER ABUSE VICTIM CONFIDENTIALITY

AUTHOR: SENATOR HENRY STERN

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SUMMARY

SB 1320 allows victims of elder or dependent adult abuse to be eligible for the California Address Confidentiality Program known as Safe at Home. This bill will give participants a confidential, substitute address to manage their affairs and protect their privacy from potential abusers.

BACKGROUND

Currently, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking, as well as reproductive healthcare service employees, are eligible for the Secretary of State's Safe at Home program.

Since Safe at Home began in 1999, the program has helped protect thousands of abuse victims and reproductive health care workers.

This program protects the home address of enrolled persons from being accessed through public records. Participants are assigned a confidential substitute mailing address that is accepted by California state, county, and city government agencies in lieu of a personal mailing address where the victim can be tracked down, thereby shielding their home address from abusers.

THE PROBLEM

The elderly are among the most vulnerable in our communities. Social isolation, physical disabilities, and mental impairment make the elderly particularly vulnerable to abuse.

According to the National Council on Aging, 1 in 10 Americans over the age of 60 experience some form of elder abuse; some estimate as high as 5 million elders are abused per year. Abused elders have a 300% higher risk of death and elder financial abuse and fraud costs older Americans an estimated minimum of \$36.5 billion a year.

Currently, Californians who suffered from elder or dependent adult abuse are not explicitly eligible for the California Address Confidentiality Program known as Safe at Home. Those victims who live in fear of their abusers should be afforded the same opportunity to keep their information confidential through the Safe at Home Program.

THIS BILL

Following the program's history of including and protecting more survivors of different forms of abuse, SB 1320 will expand Safe at Home's protections to victims of elder or dependent abuse. This simple measure will give those who suffered from this form of abuse the opportunity to seek help and protection from this program.

SUPPORT

- California Elder Justice Coalition (sponsor)
- Congress of California Seniors (sponsor)
- Secretary of State Alex Padilla
- AARP
- The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration
- California Alliance for Retired Americans
- California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Association
- California School Employees Association (CSEA)
- California Senior Legislature
- California State Retirees
- California District Attorneys Association
- Consumer Federation of California (CFC)
- PORAC
- San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan
- State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- WISE & Healthy Aging