



SCR 45 – Dodd

Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month

Summary

SCR 45 seeks to proclaim and acknowledge the month of June 2021 as Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Awareness Month. This is consistent with National and International recognition of this issue in the month of June.

Background

Elder and dependent adult abuse is a serious and growing crisis in California. Not a day goes by without reports of horrific cases of abuse or exploitation of the elderly or adults with disabilities.

Elder abuse affects men and women of all ethnic backgrounds and social status; it occurs in private residences and in facilities. The elderly and adults with disabilities may be impacted by a constellation of physical, mental, pharmaceutical, or medical influences, any one of which could restrict their ability to protect themselves or self-advocate, to report to authorities when abuse occurs, or to testify against perpetrators.

The National Center on Elder Abuse notes that there are as many as six million cases of elder abuse in the United States every year and 11 percent of all cases occur in California. California has only recently begun collecting comprehensive data on abuse cases, reports, or investigations, leaving the government with limited capacity to track existing trends and to

make informed decisions about the strategic use of existing resources. The lack of statewide elder and dependent adult abuse data prevents policymakers from measuring the extent of these crimes and tragedies. With the increasing elder and dependent adult population here in California, it is essential that the legislature raise awareness about this vulnerable population in order to better address their needs.

Existing Law

The Legislature annually adopts a resolution recognizing June as Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Awareness Month.

This Measure

SCR 45 proclaims the month of June 2021 and every year thereafter, as Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Awareness Month in California. This resolution reiterates the importance of annually recognizing the problem while providing opportunities for legislators, advocates and other stakeholders to learn, educate, and join forces against elder abuse.

Support

CA Elder Justice Coalition (sponsor)

Contact

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