
THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 45
Author: Dodd (D)
Introduced: 5/11/21
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution proclaims and acknowledges the month of June 2021 as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month in California and reiterates the importance of annually recognizing Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month in the state.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Elder and dependent adult abuse is a serious and growing crisis in California.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Elder and dependent adult abuse may be physical, emotional, sexual, or fiduciary and consists of crimes that recognize no boundaries of economic, educational, or social status, gender, race, culture, religion, or geographic location.
- 4) Subtle indicators that abuse may be occurring include bruises or pressure marks, unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, a change in alertness, unusual depression, sudden changes in financial situations, strained or tense relationships, or frequent arguments.
- 5) Recognizing these signs is the first step toward the prevention of elder and dependent adult abuse.

- 6) Elders who experience abuse or mistreatment face a greater risk of impacting the health system or impacting the social service system.
- 7) Despite the rapidly expanding population of older adults and adults with disabilities, the State of 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, let alone improve the reporting system, enhance protections, or give law enforcement partners the tools necessary to secure justice.
- 8) The lack of statewide elder and dependent adult abuse data prevents policymakers from measuring the extent of these crimes and tragedies.
- 9) All older adults and adults with disabilities have the right to live safely in the least restrictive environment, whether in their homes or health care facilities, and to enjoy an optimum quality of life while being protected from all forms of injustice.
- 10) Achieving health equity for older people of color and older LGBTQ individuals are important and continuing goals that must be priorities for our state.
- 11) Private citizens and public agencies must work to combat crime and violence against older adults and adults with disabilities through increased public awareness, knowing the signs of abuse, and reporting.
- 12) June 15 is recognized internationally as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, first established in 2006 to raise awareness of elder and dependent adult abuse and to promote better understanding of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic issues behind the growing incidence of elder and dependent adult abuse around the globe.

This resolution:

- 1) Proclaims and acknowledges the month of June 2021 as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month and reiterates the importance of annually recognizing Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month in the state.
- 2) Provides that California's recognition of elder and dependent adult abuse in June is consistent with the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day of June 15.

Related/Prior Legislation

SCR 49 (Dodd, Resolution Chapter 89, Statutes of 2019) proclaimed and acknowledged the month of June 2019 as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month.

ACR 238 (Kalra, Resolution Chapter 135, Statutes of 2018) proclaimed and acknowledged the month of June 2018 as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/19/21)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/19/21)

None received

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5/19/21 14:29:11

**** **END** ****