

Date of Hearing: July 8, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Ken Cooley, Chair  
SCR 45 (Dodd) – As Introduced May 11, 2021

**SENATE VOTE:** 40-0

**SUBJECT:** Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month.

**SUMMARY:** 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. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) 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.
- 2) One in every nine individuals over 65 years of age is living with Alzheimer's dementia and nearly one in two people with dementia experiences some form of abuse by others.
- 3) Alzheimer's and dementia deaths have increased by 16 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic and COVID-19 has extended the resources of nursing homes and long-term care facilities to their limits.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) Recognizing these signs is the first step toward the prevention of elder and dependent adult abuse. 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.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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