

RESOLUTION

ELDER JUSTICE ACT OF 2007

Whereas, The fastest growing segment of the population in the United States is people 85 years of age and older and it is estimated that 50% of people 85 years of age and older have some level of dementia or Alzheimer's disease and are vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation;

Whereas, Abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults occurs in all neighborhoods and communities without regard to race, income levels, or ethnicity;

Whereas, The responsibilities for family caregiving fall primarily on women, national standards and support are needed to assist both family and community caregivers; and women outlive men and are particularly vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation as they age;

Whereas, On March 29, Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah), Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.), Representative Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.), and Representative Peter King (R-NY) introduced the Elder Justice Act of 2007. The legislation has bipartisan support, has long been sought by advocates and would amend Title XX of the Social Security Act;

Whereas, The federal government supports national efforts to fight child and domestic abuse, but does not have any federal program to combat elder abuse, and passage of the Elder Justice Act would provide national support for both the protection of vulnerable adults and the prevention of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults;

Whereas, passage of the Elder Justice Act would establish national coordination of elder justice activities and research through an Elder Justice Coordination Council and Advisory Board on elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation that would make recommendations to the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services; and

Whereas, passage of the Elder Justice Act would establish programs to promote elder justice including the enhancement of long term care, a national training institute for federal and state surveyors, grants to state survey agencies, a national nurse aide registry study, Adult Protective Services state formula grants, and long term care ombudsman program grants and training; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That **BPW/USA** encourages the Congress of the United States to pass the Elder Justice Act to protect vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation; be it further

RESOLVED, That members of **BPW/USA** be encouraged to contact their U. S. Senators and U. S. Congresspersons and request that their representatives sign-on as co-sponsors of the Elder Justice Act.