

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 62

Senators Wojno, Bizon, Johnson, Bullock, Alexander, Runestad, Victory, McBroom, Irwin, McMorrow, Bayer, Polehanki, Brinks, Moss, Outman, Stamas, Zorn, McCann, Hertel, Ananich, Geiss, LaSata, Horn, Santana, Chang, Hollier, Lauwers, Schmidt, Barrett, Theis, Daley, MacDonald, Bumstead, Nesbitt and VanderWall offered the following resolution:

- 1 A resolution to recognize June 15, 2021, as Elder Abuse
- 2 Awareness Day.
- 3 Whereas, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was first announced
- 4 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
- 5 (INPEA), the World Health Organization (WHO), and others at the
- 6 United Nations (UN), on June 15, 2006; and
- 7 Whereas, According to the Centers for Disease Control and

1 Prevention (CDC), elder abuse is an intentional act or failure to
2 act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult, often
3 occurring at the hands of a caregiver or a trusted individual; and

4 Whereas, According to the National Center on Elder Abuse
5 (NCEA), elder abuse typically takes one of five forms: neglect,
6 physical, psychological and emotional, sexual, or financial abuse;
7 and

8 Whereas, Elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation have no
9 boundaries and cross all racial, social, class, gender, and
10 geographic lines; and

11 Whereas, In 2018, there were 52.4 million adults 65 years of
12 age and older in the United States, and by 2040, that number is
13 expected to climb to 80 million, comprising nearly 21 percent of
14 the total population; and

15 Whereas, Each year, more than 1 in 10 people over the age of
16 60 are victims of elder abuse. The vast majority of elder abuse
17 cases in the United States go unidentified and under-reported; and

18 Whereas, Reports of elder abuse are increasing due to several
19 factors, including more people living longer, a rise in isolation
20 among the senior population, and an increase in the amount of
21 wealth seniors have accumulated throughout their life; and

22 Whereas, Older adults who have suffered from abuse are more
23 likely to die earlier than older adults that have not; and

24 Whereas, Public awareness as well as state and community
25 outreach can increase the identification and reporting of elder
26 abuse by the public, professionals, and victims, and can act as a
27 catalyst to promote issue-based education and long-term prevention;
28 and

29 Whereas, Members of the public and professionals who work with

1 older adults are encouraged to recognize, detect, report, and
2 respond to elder abuse while also promoting awareness and long-term
3 prevention of elder abuse by reaching out to local adult protective
4 services agencies, long-term care ombudsman programs, the sixteen
5 National Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) across the state, and the
6 NCEA; and

7 Whereas, Individuals and public agencies must work together at
8 the federal, state, and local levels to combat increasing
9 occurrences of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against
10 vulnerable older adults, particularly considering the limited
11 resources for vital protective services; now, therefore, be it

12 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
13 body recognize June 15, 2021, as Elder Abuse Awareness Day; and be
14 it further

15 Resolved, That we recognize judges, lawyers, adult protective
16 services professionals, law enforcement officers, long-term care
17 ombudsmen, social workers, health care providers, professional
18 guardians, advocates for victims, and other professionals and
19 agencies for their efforts to advance awareness and prevention of
20 elder abuse.