To amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to authorize the Elder Justice Initiative, to require that online resources of such initiative are made available in Spanish, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2021

Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself and Mrs. SPARTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

MAY --, 2021

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 30, 2021]
A BILL

To amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to authorize the Elder Justice Initiative, to require that online resources of such initiative are made available in Spanish, and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Elder Abuse Protection
Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE.

Section 101(b) of the Elder Abuse Prevention and
Prosecution Act (34 U.S.C. 21711(b)) is amended to read
as follows:

“(b) ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE.—

“(1) PERMANENT INITIATIVE.—The Attorney
General shall establish an Elder Justice Initiative to
coordinate criminal enforcement and public engage-
ment efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and finan-
cial fraud and scams that target elders, and to sup-
port and coordinate the efforts of the Elder Justice
Coordinator designated under subsection (a).

“(2) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ELDER JUSTICE
COORDINATOR.—The Attorney General shall designate
an Elder Justice Coordinator within the Department
of Justice who, in addition to any other responsibil-
ities, shall be responsible for—

“(A) coordinating and supporting the law

enforcement efforts and policy activities as the
head of the Elder Justice Initiative for the Department of Justice on elder justice issues;

“(B) evaluating training models to determine best practices and creating or compiling and making publicly available replication guides and training materials for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, emergency responders, individuals working in victim services, adult protective services, social services, and public safety, medical personnel, mental health personnel, financial services personnel, and any other individuals whose work may bring them in contact with elder abuse regarding how to—

“(i) conduct investigations in elder abuse cases;

“(ii) address evidentiary issues and other legal issues; and

“(iii) appropriately assess, respond to, and interact with victims and witnesses in elder abuse cases, including in administrative, civil, and criminal judicial proceedings; and

“(C) carrying out such other duties as the Attorney General determines necessary in connection with enhancing the understanding, pre-
vention, and detection of, and response to, elder abuse.

“(3) Online public resources.—The Elder Justice Initiative shall maintain and publish on the internet, information aimed at protecting elders from fraudulent schemes and contain resources aimed at preventing elder abuse.

“(4) Telephone hotline.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Elder Justice Coordinator and the Office of Victims of Crime, shall establish a national elder fraud telephone hotline to provide support to victims and resources to help victims, including referrals to federal, local and state law enforcement where appropriate.

“(5) Tribal consultation.—The Elder Justice Coordinator shall provide recommendations to the Office of Tribal Justice on a yearly basis on how to address elder abuse and elder fraud that takes place on federally recognized tribal reservations.

“(6) Legal aid.—The Elder Justice Coordinator shall consult with components of the Department of Justice to promote the provision of civil legal aid to victims of elder abuse and elder fraud.

“(7) Spanish language resources.—The Attorney General shall ensure that Elder Justice Initia-
ive online resources are available in Spanish and
link linguistically appropriate resources to inform
Spanish-speaking elders of Federal and State re-
sources to combat fraud and abuse that targets the el-
derly, to include—

“(A) Spanish-language resources and links
that help report instances of elder fraud and
abuse to State and local law enforcement; and

“(B) resources that help prevent financial
exploitation of elders.”.