H. R. 8169

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

September 4, 2020

Ms. Garcia of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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 Representatives 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 2020”.

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 within the Criminal Division an Elder Justice Initiative to coordinate criminal enforcement and public engagement efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and financial fraud and scams that target elders, and to support and coordinate the efforts of the Elder Justice Coordinators 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 responsibilities, 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 offi-
cers, prosecutors, judges, emergency respond-
ers, individuals working in victim services, adult
protective services, social services, and public
safety, medical personnel, mental health per-
sonnel, 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 administra-
tive, civil, and criminal judicial pro-
ceedings; and

“(C) carrying out such other duties as the
Attorney General determines necessary in con-
nection 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) **SPANISH LANGUAGE RESOURCES.**—The Attorney General shall ensure that Elder Justice Initiative online resources are available in Spanish and link linguistically appropriate resources to inform Spanish-speaking elders of Federal and State resources to combat fraud and abuse that targets the elderly, 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.”.

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