



May 17, 2021

ELDER JUSTICE COALITION STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

The national Elder Justice Coalition supports the bipartisan Elder Abuse Protection Act of 2021 sponsored by Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D-TX) and urges the House Judiciary Committee to report the bill favorably.

“We see this as needed legislation to further strengthen federal resources to combat the national problem of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. We applaud the language in the bill to make the Elder Justice Initiative a permanent office in the Department of Justice to provide key direction for the 94 elder justice coordinators around the nation,” said Bob Blancato, National Coordinator of the Coalition.

The Coalition also cited its support for several provisions added to the bill since introduction, including making the National Elder Fraud Hotline permanent in statute and for follow-up work related to a 2019 Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable.

Blancato added, “As a participant in the 2018 Rural and Tribal Elder Justice Summit, I am especially pleased to see the language making permanent consultations between the Elder Justice Initiative and the Office of Tribal Justice.”

“Additionally, with the dramatic increase in the number of Spanish-speaking older adults in our nation, it is critical that materials produced by the Elder Justice Initiative be translated into Spanish as the Garcia bill would ensure,” said Blancato.

The Coalition also thanked Rep. Victoria Spartz (R-IN) for being the original co-sponsor of the bill.