



May 1, 2009

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Baldwin:

AARP is very pleased to endorse H.R. 2006, the Elder Justice Act of 2009. This bipartisan bill establishes a comprehensive foundation for a coordinated network of services, research, information, and trained professionals to address elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. We applaud you for your leadership on these important issues.

The Elder Justice Act reflects a collaborative commitment to address the serious problem of elder abuse and responds to many of the complex forces that hamper the ability of older Americans to live independently and obtain quality long-term services and supports. We support the bill and its promotion of greater independence, dignity, autonomy, and quality care, through provisions that:

- Promote coordination of federal, state and local efforts through the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice;
- Support efforts to enhance capacity to discover and hold abusers and other violators accountable, including required reporting of violations by nursing facilities or staff;
- Provide for long-term services and supports (LTSS) staff enhancement and training, preventive measures to protect persons receiving LTSS, and a plan for the transfer and relocation of long-term care (LTC) facility residents when a facility closes;
- Fund research on approaches to abuse detection and prevention; and
- Improve capacities of LTC ombudsman and adult protective services programs.

AARP believes that the provisions of this legislation take important steps in detecting, combating and preventing elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. We thank you again for your leadership in this area, and look forward to working with Congress, the Administration, and other stakeholders to enact these important legislative solutions.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me or have your staff contact Larry White (434-3800) or Rhonda Richards (434-3770) on our Government Relations staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David P. Sloane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David P. Sloane
Senior Vice President
Government Relations and Advocacy