



**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGING
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGING**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Oral Testimony by Invitation Only**

February 28, 2017
10:00 am
Hearing Room A
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

SUBJECT: Education, Awareness and Prevention of Elder Abuse

PURPOSE: To identify best practices relating to elder abuse education and prevention; to evaluate the effectiveness of existing systems for preventing and responding to elder abuse; and to identify system gaps and explore possible remedies.

The definition of elder abuse is broad in nature, ranging from neglect and financial exploitation to physical, sexual and emotional maltreatment.

The NYS Office for the Aging estimates that for every one case of elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, or self-neglect reported to authorities, five others go unreported. Further, the Office of Children and Family Services estimated in its 2016 report “The NYS Cost of Financial Exploitation Study” that the total loss of assets seniors may be facing as a result of financial exploitation ranges from \$352 million to \$1.5 billion each year. Such staggering numbers indicate that this is a critically important issue that requires a comprehensive response from state and local governments, community-based organizations, business and healthcare professionals, as well as the community at large.

Additionally, because abuse too often happens at the hands of someone the victim trusts or their primary caretaker, many seniors are afraid to take action because they do not know who will care for them or where they might end up if they speak out. We need to closely examine the process that is currently in place for handling these particular cases, and discuss ways to empower victims in these situations to increase reporting.

New York’s seniors play a vital role in the fabric of our society and we have a responsibility to ensure that they have the opportunity to enjoy their golden years free from harm and safe from abuse.

The purpose of the hearing is to determine what resources are available to protect the health and safety of our State’s seniors and evaluate the effectiveness of our current system. Ultimately, the goal will be to identify additional means to protect our seniors from abuse.

Oral testimony will be accepted by invitation only and limited to 10 minutes in duration. 15 copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements. Written testimony will also be accepted and may be sent to the contact person listed on the reply form. In order to further publicize the hearing, please inform interested parties of the Committees’ interest in receiving written testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Legislature, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Legislative facilities and activities.

**Senator Sue Serino, Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Aging**

**Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, Chair
Assembly Standing Committee on Aging**

Public Hearing Reply Form

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on issues concerning the Education, Awareness and Prevention of Elder Abuse to be held on February 28, 2017 or who wish to submit written testimony, are requested to complete and return this reply form by February 21, 2017 by mail or email to:

Shanna Cassidy
Committee Clerk
New York State Senate
Senator Serino
Room 812 LOB
Albany, NY 12247
e-mail: cassidy@nysenate.gov
(518) 455-2945

(It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency, postponement or cancellation.)

I plan to attend the public hearing on February 28, 2017 concerning the Education, Awareness and Prevention of Elder Abuse to be conducted jointly by the Senate and Assembly Aging Committees

I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to 10 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 15 copies of my prepared statement.

I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

I would like to be added to the Committees' mailing list for notices and reports.

I would like to be removed from the Committees' mailing list.

I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:**

NAME:

TITLE:

ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

E-MAIL:
