



March 17, 2021

Chair Patton and members of the House Committee Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2150, relating to the reporting of abuse, neglect and exploitation, commonly referred to collectively as “ANE.” Chiefly, the bill adds certain persons as mandatory reporters, and redefines financial exploitation, and increases the number of days in which to complete investigations.

Financial exploitation is, of course, the “E” in ANE and is the most commonly perpetrated form of abuse against older adults. Approximately 1 in 10 Americans aged 60+ have experienced some form of elder abuse. Some estimates range as high as 5 million elders who are abused (all types) each year. One study estimated that only 1 in 14 cases of abuse are reported to authorities.

A key tip-off that a person is being financially exploited is, not surprisingly, a change in their financial situation. Older adults actually report that they have been financially exploited at greater rates than those who have been abused in other ways. They often don’t see it coming but see it clearly in hindsight. Often, they blame themselves for letting it happen, and are embarrassed and lose self esteem and confidence, in addition to their money. All too often they have been hoodwinked by a family member, a new friend who separates them from their family, a telephone or email scam, or a romantic predator.

Our chief concern about HB 2150 is the increase from 30 days to 60 days the time to complete the financial exploitation investigation. We are concerned that time is of the essence in financial exploitation investigations just as it is with investigations into other types of ANE. However, we do appreciate the agency’s commitment to doing its due diligence and thorough investigation, recognizing the need for additional time to accomplish its investigation and urge they complete such investigations as promptly as possible.

Finally, it is well past time to require Certified Nurse Aides and Certified Medication Aides to be listed as mandatory reporters. CNAs and CMAs are entrusted with residents’ daily personal care, under often enormously difficult situations. We should trust them to be mandatory reporters.

Passage of HB 2150 will improve the protection of older adults in nursing facilities. Please join KABC in supporting HB 2150.

Margaret Farley, Executive Director - On behalf of Board of Directors and Members

KABC is a statewide not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of long- term care for elders in nursing and assisted facilities and in-home. KABC is not a provider of government funded services. For 46 years KABC’s role has been as a resource and advocate for older adults and families and as a resource to policy makers on aging and quality care issues. KABC provides consumer education information and tracks and reports on quality care performance issues.