

**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

(202) 225-2011

April 1, 2010

The Honorable Edwin L. Walker
Acting Assistant Secretary for Aging
Administration on Aging
Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC 20201

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Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Walker,

I have a great interest in the protection of the elderly. I am the sponsor of H.R. 448, the Elder Abuse Victims Act, an act to protect seniors in the United States from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse, to provide training to prosecutors and other law enforcement related to elder abuse prevention and protection, to establish programs that provide for emergency crisis response teams to combat elder abuse, and for other purposes. This act currently is before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I have been contacted by a Pennsylvania resident, Ms. Holly Pepper, regarding the guardianship of her mother through the Florida court system. Subsequent to my contacts with Ms. Pepper, I have been contacted a Mr. Thomas M. Fields. Enclosed please find information sent to my attention by Mr. Fields, which includes his communication with yourself from April 3, 2009 and a reply from the Director of your Office of Elder Rights, Ms. Barbara J. Dieker. Mr. Fields proposes an Elder Abuse Task Force, much in line with my proposals, in particular as it comports with my proposal to improve the elder justice system in the United States.

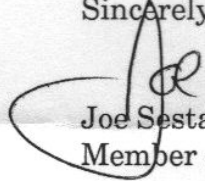
It appears to me that the proposal has significant merit. The increasing concern regarding manipulation of the elderly and consequent loss of free choice and financial disempowerment of the elderly, often by greed in the guise of concern, by control masked as charity, is an embarrassment to our culture that so strongly respects individual rights of personal choice and property protections. My correspondents' issue is the lack of protective protocol for the elderly that can be applied uniformly across state lines. It is my understanding that such a protocol has the support of the eminent American Medical Association. I ask whether your office might not address this discrete issue and support a formal investigation of the

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issues surrounding financial and legal abuse of the elderly through hearings before an appropriate fact-finding administrative and/or legislative body.

I may be reached at my district offices, located at 600 North Jackson Street, Media, PA 19063. If you have questions or concerns relating to this issue, please call my District Representative, Anne Vaughan, at 610 892 8623. Thank you kindly for your attention to this concern. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Joe Sestak
Member of Congress

JS/av

Enclosure

Cc: Ms. Holly Pepper

Mr. Thomas M. Fields