

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6141

To establish pilot programs that provide for emergency crisis response teams to combat elder abuse.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2008

Mr. YARMUTH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To establish pilot programs that provide for emergency crisis response teams to combat elder abuse.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Elder Serve Act of  
5 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The proportion of the United States popu-  
9 lation 60 years of age or older will drastically in-

1       crease in the next 30 years as more than 76,000,000  
2       baby boomers approach retirement and old age.

3           (2) Every year an estimated 2.1 million older  
4       Americans are victims of physical, psychological, or  
5       other forms of abuse and neglect.

6           (3) Elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation have  
7       no boundaries, and cross all racial, social class, gen-  
8       der, and geographic lines.

9           (4) For every case of elder abuse and neglect  
10       reported to authorities, experts estimate that there  
11       may be as many as 5 cases not reported.

12           (5) Nearly 70 percent of the annual caseloads  
13       of Adult Protective Service agencies involve elder  
14       abuse.

15           (6) The most recent Bureau of Justice Statis-  
16       tics report states that 90 percent of elder abuse and  
17       neglect incidents are by known perpetrators, usually  
18       family members, and 2/3 of such incidents are by  
19       adult children or spouses.

20   **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF ELDER SERVE COORDINATING**  
21                           **COUNCILS PILOT PROGRAMS.**

22       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General, acting  
23       through the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime  
24       of the Department of Justice (in this section referred to  
25       as the “Director”), shall carry out a three-year grant pro-

1 gram to be known as the Elder Serve Coordinating Coun-  
2 cils grant program (in this section referred to as the “Pro-  
3 gram”) to provide grants to eligible entities to establish  
4 pilot programs to facilitate and coordinate programs de-  
5 scribed in subsection (e) for victims of elder abuse.

6 (b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTEEES.—  
7 To be eligible to receive a grant under the Program, an  
8 entity must meet the following criteria:

9 (1) ELIGIBLE CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE PRO-  
10 GRAM.—The entity is a crime victim assistance pro-  
11 gram receiving a grant under the Victims of Crime  
12 Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) for the period  
13 described in subsection (c)(2) with respect to the  
14 grant sought under this section.

15 (2) COORDINATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY  
16 BASED AGENCIES AND SERVICES.—The entity shall  
17 demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Director that  
18 such entity has a record of community coordination  
19 or established contacts with other county and local  
20 services that serve elderly individuals.

21 (3) ABILITY TO CREATE ECRT ON TIMELY  
22 BASIS.—The entity shall demonstrate to the satisfac-  
23 tion of the Director the ability of the entity to cre-  
24 ate, not later than 6 months after receiving such  
25 grant, an Emergency Crisis Response Team pro-

1       gram described in subsection (e)(1) and the pro-  
2       grams described in subsection (e)(2).

3 For purposes of meeting the criteria described in para-  
4 graph (2), for each year an entity receives a grant under  
5 this section the entity shall provide a record of community  
6 coordination or established contacts described in such  
7 paragraph through memorandums of understanding, con-  
8 tracts, subcontracts, and other such documentation.

9       (c) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

10           (1) CONSULTATION.—Each pilot program es-  
11       tablished pursuant to this section shall be developed  
12       and carried out in consultation with the following  
13       entities:

14           (A) Elder Serve Incorporated of Louisville,  
15       Kentucky.

16           (B) Relevant Federal, State, and local pub-  
17       lic and private agencies and entities, relating to  
18       elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and other  
19       crimes against elderly individuals.

20           (C) Local law enforcement including police,  
21       sheriffs, detectives, public safety officers, cor-  
22       rections personnel, prosecutors, medical exam-  
23       iners, investigators, and coroners.

24           (D) Long term care and nursing facilities.

1           (2) GRANT PERIOD.—Grants under the Pro-  
2           gram shall be issued for a three-year period.

3           (3) LOCATIONS.—The Program shall be carried  
4           out in six geographically and demographically di-  
5           verse locations, taking into account—

6                   (A) the number of elderly individuals resid-  
7                   ing in or near an area; and

8                   (B) the difficulty of access to immediate  
9                   short-term housing and health services for vic-  
10                  tims of elder abuse.

11          (d) PERSONNEL.—In providing care and services,  
12          each pilot program established pursuant to this section  
13          may employ a staff to assist in creating an Emergency  
14          Crisis Response Teams under subsection (e)(1).

15          (e) USE OF GRANTS.—

16                  (1) EMERGENCY CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM.—  
17          Each entity that receives a grant under this section  
18          shall use such grant to establish an Emergency Cri-  
19          sis Response Team program by not later than the  
20          date that is six months after the entity receives the  
21          grant. Under such program the following shall  
22          apply:

23                   (A) Such program shall include immediate,  
24                   short-term emergency services, including shel-  
25                   ter, care services, food, clothing, transportation

1 to medical or legal appointment as appropriate,  
2 and any other life-services deemed necessary by  
3 the entity for victims of elder abuse.

4 (B) Such program shall provide services  
5 only to victims of elder abuse who have been re-  
6 ferred to the program through the adult protec-  
7 tive services agency of the local law enforcement  
8 or any other relevant law enforcement or refer-  
9 ral agency.

10 (C) A victim of elder abuse may not re-  
11 ceive short-term housing under the program for  
12 more than five consecutive days.

13 (D) The entity that established the pro-  
14 gram shall enter into arrangements with the  
15 relevant local law enforcement agencies so that  
16 the program receives weekly reports from such  
17 agencies on elder abuse.

18 (2) ADDITIONAL SERVICES REQUIRED TO BE  
19 PROVIDED.—Not later than one year after the date  
20 an entity receives a grant under this section, such  
21 entity shall have established the following programs  
22 (and community collaborations to support such pro-  
23 grams):

24 (A) COUNSELING.—A program that pro-  
25 vides counseling and assistance for victims of

1 elder abuse accessing health care, educational,  
2 pension, or other benefits for which seniors may  
3 be eligible under Federal or applicable State  
4 law.

5 (B) MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING.—A  
6 program that provides mental health screenings  
7 for victims of elder abuse to identify and seek  
8 assistance for potential mental health disorders  
9 such as depression or substance abuse.

10 (C) EMERGENCY LEGAL ADVOCACY.—A  
11 program that provides legal advocacy for vic-  
12 tims of elder abuse.

13 (D) JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE.—A pro-  
14 gram that provides job placement assistance  
15 and information on employment, training, or  
16 volunteer opportunities for victims of elder  
17 abuse.

18 (E) BEREAVEMENT COUNSELING.—A pro-  
19 gram that provides bereavement counseling for  
20 families of victims of elder abuse.

21 (F) OTHER SERVICES.—A program that  
22 provides such other care, services, and assist-  
23 ance as the entity considers appropriate for  
24 purposes of the pilot program.

1           (f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Director shall  
2 enter into contracts with private entities with experience  
3 in elder abuse coordination to provide such technical as-  
4 sistance to grantees under this section as the entity deter-  
5 mines appropriate.

6           (g) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 12  
7 months after the commencement of the Program, and  
8 every 6 months thereafter (before months beginning after  
9 the last day of the Program), the entity shall submit to  
10 the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on  
11 the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, the Chair-  
12 man and Ranking Member of the Special Committee on  
13 Aging of the Senate, and the Chairman and Ranking  
14 Member of other relevant committees with jurisdiction a  
15 report on the progress of the Program. Each report for  
16 a period shall include the following:

17           (1) A description and assessment of the imple-  
18 mentation of the Program.

19           (2) An assessment of the effectiveness of the  
20 pilot program in providing care and services to sen-  
21 iors, including a comparative assessment of effective-  
22 ness for each of the locations designated under sub-  
23 section (c)(3) for the Program.

24           (3) An assessment of the effectiveness of the  
25 coordination for programs described in subsection

1 (e) in contributing toward the effectiveness of the  
2 Program.

3 (4) Such recommendations as the entity con-  
4 siders appropriate for modifications of the Program  
5 in order to better provide care and services to sen-  
6 iors.

7 (h) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

8 (1) ELDER ABUSE.—The term “elder abuse”  
9 means any type of violence or abuse, whether mental  
10 or physical, inflicted upon an elderly individual.

11 (2) ELDERLY INDIVIDUAL.—The term “elderly  
12 individual” means an individual who is age 65 or  
13 older.

14 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
15 authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Jus-  
16 tice to carry out this section \$3,000,000 for each of the  
17 fiscal years 2009 through 2011.

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