

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 17, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 13

Introduced by Assembly Member Yamada

May 3, 2011

House Resolution No. 13—Relative to Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Awareness Month.

1 WHEREAS, Elder and vulnerable adult abuse is a crime and a
2 serious and growing crisis in California; and

3 WHEREAS, Not a day goes by without reports of horrific cases
4 of abuse or exploitation of older or vulnerable adults; and

5 WHEREAS, Throughout the United States, 10,000 people a day
6 are turning 65 years of age; and

7 WHEREAS, One in every eight individuals over 65 years of
8 age is living with Alzheimer’s disease, and one in every ~~76~~
9 ~~Californians~~ *110 youth born today* has a disorder on the Autism
10 Spectrum. The rapid growth of special populations like these that
11 are in need of enhanced protection will further challenge the
12 overwhelmed vulnerable adult protection system; and

13 WHEREAS, Older and vulnerable adults may be impacted by
14 any of a constellation of physical, mental, pharmaceutical, or
15 medical influences that could render them unable to self-advocate,
16 to report, or to testify; and

17 WHEREAS, At least 2 percent, and as many as 10 percent, of
18 the elder and vulnerable adult population in California are abused,
19 molested, injured, exploited, or scammed each year; and

20 WHEREAS, The incidence of abuse and exploitation of the
21 developmentally disabled population is shocking. Over 80 percent

1 of women with developmental disabilities and over 30 percent of
2 men with developmental disabilities are sexually abused at least
3 once during their lifetime; and

4 WHEREAS, Current estimates suggest that as few as one in 14
5 cases of elder and vulnerable adult abuse is reported, including
6 fewer than one in 25 incidents of financial abuse, because the
7 victims are ashamed, hopeless, intimidated, or afraid of the abuser;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, A comprehensive central data repository of all
10 child abuse investigations has been in existence since 1965, but
11 no similar repository exists for investigations of crimes against
12 frail, elder, and vulnerable adults; and

13 WHEREAS, Even in the year 2011, with a booming and
14 exponentially expanding population of elder and vulnerable adults,
15 the state of California does not collect comprehensive data on
16 abuse cases, reports, or investigations. This inhibits the
17 government's ability to make informed decisions about improving
18 the existing reporting system, enhancing protections, or lending
19 law enforcement the tools necessary to ensure justice; and

20 WHEREAS, The lack of statewide elder abuse statistics prevents
21 policymakers from measuring the extent of these crimes and
22 tragedies. The lack of a single point of contact to report an incident
23 of abuse of and elder or vulnerable adult contributes to the current
24 climate of under reporting; and

25 WHEREAS, Elder and vulnerable adult abuse may be physical,
26 emotional, sexual, or fiduciary, and consists of crimes that know
27 no boundaries of economic or educational status, gender, race,
28 ethnicity, or geographic location; and

29 WHEREAS, Subtle indicators that abuse may be occurring
30 include bruises or pressure marks, unexplained withdrawal from
31 normal activities, a sudden change in alertness, unusual depression,
32 sudden changes in financial situations, strained or tense
33 relationships, or frequent arguments between a caregiver and a
34 client. Recognizing these signs is the first step toward the
35 prevention of elder and vulnerable adult abuse; and

36 WHEREAS, Elders and vulnerable adults have the right to live
37 safely in the least restrictive environment, whether in their homes
38 or health care facilities, and to enjoy an optimum quality of life
39 while being protected from all forms of abuse; and

1 WHEREAS, Private citizens and public agencies must work to
2 combat crime and violence against elders and vulnerable adults,
3 particularly in the face of continued funding reductions in vital
4 services; and

5 WHEREAS, All Californians are strongly encouraged to report
6 suspected abuse of an elder or vulnerable adult by calling their
7 local adult protective services agency, Long-Term Care
8 Ombudsman, law enforcement, or emergency services agencies;
9 now, therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
11 Assembly proclaims and acknowledges the month of May 2011
12 and every year thereafter, as the Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse
13 Awareness Month; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
15 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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