



## *Monroe County Legislature*

**HARRY B. BRONSON**  
DEMOCRATIC MINORITY LEADER

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Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
Memorializing Referral -L

March 10, 2008

To the Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
407 County Office Building  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, NY 14614

Re: **Memorializing the United States Congress to pass the Elder Justice Act.**

Honorable Legislators:

This nation has a proud history of supporting and enriching the lives of its senior citizens. Over the next 30 years this rich history will be put to the test like never before, due to the baby boom generation adding more than 76,000,000 citizens age 60 years and older to our population.


We must do everything within our power to ensure those citizens nearing retirement age are able to enjoy the remainder of their lives free from the devastating effects of elder abuse and neglect. Tragically, an estimated 30,000 seniors are abused, neglected or exploited each year in New York State.


Experts agree that most cases of elder abuse are never reported and that abuse, neglect, and exploitation shorten a victim's lifespan, often triggering a downward spiral of an otherwise productive, self-sufficient life. Community and public safety programs that address domestic violence, child abuse and neglect have demonstrated the need for a multifaceted approach that combines public health, social service, and law enforcement services. The Elder Justice Act is intended to provide those critically needed services, while also expanding on available research and offering other, much needed protections our seniors deserve.

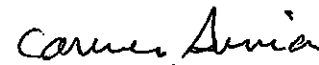
The Elder Justice Act, co-sponsored by New York's senior Senator Chuck Schumer, would increase penalties for assaulting a person 65 years or older from a class A misdemeanor to a class D felony. Moreover, the Elder Justice Act tightens existing laws to make it easier to prosecute abuse, neglect or other criminal activity committed under the cover of power of attorney laws.

Therefore, we urge you to join us memorializing the United States Congress to pass the Elder Justice Act in order to better protect American seniors and continue our history of supporting those in need.


Respectfully submitted,

  
Harry Bronson  
Democratic Minority Leader

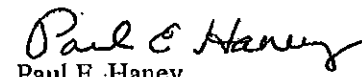
  
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