

Dear Attorney General Josh Kaul,

We are writing to you today to urge you to continue the Wisconsin Elder Abuse Task Force's efforts in combating elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

On April 5th, 2017, Attorney General Brad Schimel gathered over 60 stakeholders across Wisconsin to discuss growing concerns related to elder abuse of Wisconsin residents. In August 2017, the Elder Abuse Task Force convened. Task Force membership includes representatives from DOJ, DHS, DFI, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Wisconsin State Legislature, law enforcement, Wisconsin Court System, Board on Aging and Long Term Care, Wisconsin Bankers Association, crime victim services, adult protective services, senior living facilities, and senior citizen advocacy organizations. Task Force objectives included compiling experience, expertise, and resources from all members to better understand the impact of Elder Abuse in Wisconsin and, secondly, how to improve outcomes for this growing population while strengthening consumer protections.

In October 2018, former Attorney General Brad Schimel, along with Elder Abuse Task Force members, presented five proposals to former Governor Scott Walker and other policy makers. These proposals included:

1. Blocking suspicious financial transactions to stop elder exploitation
2. Use of Elder Abuse Supplemental Incident Reports for Law Enforcement
3. Enhanced protections for the elders through criminal law reforms
4. Expedited hearings and testimony preservation
5. Specialized Elder Abuse Response Team at DOJ

The Elder Abuse Task force also assisted DOJ to develop a public awareness campaign which included radio advertisements, website information, a training video for bank tellers, and the Safe Seniors camera program.

All these efforts come at a critical time as the Wisconsin's elder population is exploding with 10,000 people turning 65 every day; Wisconsin's senior population will increase by 72% by the year 2030. Additionally, elder abuse reports are on the rise. Since 2001, there has been a 160% increase. Unfortunately, this growth only captures a portion of elder abuse, as research shows that for every one reported case of elder abuse, 24 cases go unreported.

Elders who experience any form of abuse lose not only possessions and quality of life, but also trust, safety, independence, health, and dignity. Elders also lose relationships with more than half of all reported abusers related to the victim in some way. Lastly, elders and their communities lose \$3 billion dollars per year in financial resources.

Dane County Human Services and our Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response Team members provide compassionate and competent response to all reports of elder abuse and

exploitation. We urge you to continue the work of the Elder Abuse Task Force in combating elder abuse within our state and local communities. We believe the Elder Abuse Task Force honors elder citizens and respects abuse victims.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. To discuss any of the above information or ways that we can work together for elders, please contact any Elder Abuse Task Force Member or Amy Scarr, Chair of the Dane County Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response Committee. My information is below:

Amy Scarr, Elder Victim Support Project
Dane County Department of Human Services
1202 Northport Dr., Madison, WI 53704
(608) 261-7326 (office)
scarr@countyofdane.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Scarr".

Amy Scarr, on behalf of the Dane County Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response
(EACCR) Committee