

THE ELDER JUSTICE COALITION

A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA
JOHN B. BREAU, HONORARY CHAIR ♦ ROBERT B. BLANCATO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Senator Max Baucus
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

As you prepare to develop, mark up and pass Medicare or other legislation, the non-partisan 560 member Elder Justice Coalition urges you to include S. 1070, the bi-partisan Elder Justice Act (EJA) in the Medicare bill or in other moving legislation.

The Elder Justice Act is legislation you are familiar with, have been involved with over the past five years, and have supported. We hope you will consider prompt action on and movement of S. 1070 as introduced in this Congress or the version of the EJA which passed the Finance Committee unanimously in the 109th Congress. Such movement on EJA would constitute progress in the eyes of our members, including those from Montana and Iowa. It would also compliment progress that is being made in the House on its version of the Elder Justice Act, H.R. 1783.

Our preference would be to have the EJA be included in the Medicare bill or in other moving legislation, but if we are not successful, we hope you would consent to an immediate mark up of S. 1070 in the Finance Committee. Sufficient legislative history has been accumulated on this legislation and the urgent need to prevent elder abuse. We also request that you act on legislation regarding expansion of the criminal background check pilot program. It is time to act to protect our nation's older adults from the significant national problem of elder abuse.

We appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Blancato
National Coordinator
Elder Justice Coalition