

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2181

To amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to authorize the Elder Justice Initiative, to require that online resources of such initiative are made available in Spanish, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 22, 2021

Mr. BLUMENTHAL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to authorize the Elder Justice Initiative, to require that online resources of such initiative are made available in Spanish, and for other purposes.

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 Abuse Protection
5 Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE.**

2 Section 101(b) of the Elder Abuse Prevention and
3 Prosecution Act (34 U.S.C. 21711(b)) is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 “(b) ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE.—

6 “(1) PERMANENT INITIATIVE.—The Attorney
7 General shall establish an Elder Justice Initiative to
8 coordinate criminal enforcement and public engage-
9 ment efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and fi-
10 nancial fraud and scams that target elders, and to
11 support and coordinate the efforts of the Elder Jus-
12 tice Coordinator designated under subsection (a).

13 “(2) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ELDER JUSTICE
14 COORDINATOR.—The Attorney General shall des-
15 ignate an Elder Justice Coordinator within the De-
16 partment of Justice who, in addition to any other re-
17 sponsibilities, shall be responsible for—

18 “(A) coordinating and supporting the law
19 enforcement efforts and policy activities as the
20 head of the Elder Justice Initiative for the De-
21 partment of Justice on elder justice issues;

22 “(B) evaluating training models to deter-
23 mine best practices and creating or compiling
24 and making publicly available replication guides
25 and training materials for law enforcement offi-
26 cers, prosecutors, judges, emergency respond-

1 ers, individuals working in victim services, adult
2 protective services, social services, and public
3 safety, medical personnel, mental health per-
4 sonnel, financial services personnel, and any
5 other individuals whose work may bring them in
6 contact with elder abuse regarding how to—

7 “(i) conduct investigations in elder
8 abuse cases;

9 “(ii) address evidentiary issues and
10 other legal issues; and

11 “(iii) appropriately assess, respond to,
12 and interact with victims and witnesses in
13 elder abuse cases, including in administra-
14 tive, civil, and criminal judicial pro-
15 ceedings; and

16 “(C) carrying out such other duties as the
17 Attorney General determines necessary in con-
18 nection with enhancing the understanding, pre-
19 vention, and detection of, and response to, elder
20 abuse.

21 “(3) ONLINE PUBLIC RESOURCES.—The Elder
22 Justice Initiative shall maintain and publish on the
23 internet, information aimed at protecting elders
24 from fraudulent schemes and contain resources
25 aimed at preventing elder abuse.

1 “(4) TELEPHONE HOTLINE.—The Attorney
2 General, in consultation with the Elder Justice Coordi-
3 nator and the Office of Victims of Crime, shall es-
4 tablish a national elder fraud telephone hotline to
5 provide support to victims and resources to help vic-
6 tims, including referrals to federal, local and state
7 law enforcement where appropriate.

8 “(5) TRIBAL CONSULTATION.—The Elder Jus-
9 tice Coordinator shall provide recommendations to
10 the Office of Tribal Justice on a yearly basis on how
11 to address elder abuse and elder fraud that takes
12 place on federally recognized tribal reservations.

13 “(6) LEGAL AID.—The Elder Justice Coordi-
14 nator shall consult with components of the Depart-
15 ment of Justice to promote the provision of civil
16 legal aid to victims of elder abuse and elder fraud.

17 “(7) SPANISH LANGUAGE RESOURCES.—The
18 Attorney General shall ensure that Elder Justice
19 Initiative online resources are available in Spanish
20 and link linguistically appropriate resources to in-
21 form Spanish-speaking elders of Federal and State
22 resources to combat fraud and abuse that targets
23 the elderly, to include—

1 “(A) Spanish-language resources and links
2 that help report instances of elder fraud and
3 abuse to State and local law enforcement; and

4 “(B) resources that help prevent financial
5 exploitation of elders.”.

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