

# THE ELDER JUSTICE COALITION

## Elder Justice and the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress

### End of Second Session

The House of Representatives has adjourned for the year. The Senate will remain in occasional pro forma sessions with no legislative business being conducted for the balance of the year. Most indications are that there will be no post election lame-duck session of Congress.

The close of the Second Session of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress occurs with progress having been made on moving elder justice legislation. However, the goal of gaining final passage of legislation was not achieved. As this session closed, we saw the House pass one of the three main elder justice bills, H.R. 5352, the Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008. This was the first elder justice bill ever passed by the House. Three of the main elder justice bills (**S. 1070**, The Elder Justice Act, authored by Senators Hatch and Lincoln; **S.1577**, The Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act of 2007, authored by Sen. Kohl; and **H.R.5352**, the Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008, authored by Rep. Sestak) were awaiting a vote in the full Senate when the session ended. However, the process to move any or all of them involved achieving unanimous consent to bring the bill up for consideration in the Senate. At least two Senators, Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and Jim DeMint of South Carolina registered objections and prevented any of the bills from moving to a full Senate vote.

### ELDER JUSTICE LEGISLATION IN THE 110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS 2007-2008

**S. 1070 (The Elder Justice Act):** Introduced on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007. To read the introductory remarks by Sen. Hatch and Lincoln visit [EJA Introduction](#). The bill was then referred to the Senate Finance Committee. As of 10/9/08, the bill had 32 Co-Sponsors. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Finance Committee marked up the Elder Justice Act and reported it out of the committee favorably. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the bill was placed on the Senate legislative calendar for consideration by the full Senate, but was never brought before the full Senate.

**H.R. 1783 (The Elder Justice Act):** Introduced on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 by Rep. Rahm Emanuel and Rep Peter King. The bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means (Subcommittee on Health and Subcommittee on Income and Family Support), Committee on the Judiciary (Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security), Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor. As of 10/09/08, the bill had 122 co-sponsors. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Judiciary Committee, subcommittee on Crime Terrorism and Homeland Security, held a hearing on the Elder Justice Act. Author Rahm Emanuel and Elder Justice Coalition National Coordinator Bob Blancato testified on behalf of

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the bill. On May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, H.R.1783 was passed by the subcommittee. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, the full House Judiciary Committee passed the bill. No action was taken by the other three committees.

**S. 1577 (The Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act of 2007):** Introduced on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007. To read the introductory remarks by Sen. Kohl, visit [S.1577 Introduction](#). The bill was referred to the Senate Finance Committee. As of 10/09/2008, the bill had 16 co-sponsors. On July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Elder Justice Coalition National Coordinator Bob Blancato testified before the Senate Aging Committee on behalf of the bill. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the bill was passed by the Senate Finance Committee for the first time. On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the bill was placed on the legislative calendar for consideration by the full Senate.

**H.R. 5352(Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008):** Introduced on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 by Rep. Sestak and referred to the House Judiciary Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee. As of 10/9/08, the bill had 4 co-sponsors. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Subcommittee on Crime Terrorism and Homeland Security, held a hearing on H.R.5352. Rep. Joseph Sestak (D-PA), along with Elder Justice Coalition Coordinator Bob Blancato, testified on behalf of the bill. On May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, H.R.5352 was passed by the subcommittee. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, the full House Judiciary Committee passed the bill. The bill was passed 387-28 by the full House of Representatives on September 23, 2008. The bill was placed on the Senate legislative calendar for consideration on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.

To view full co-sponsor lists for these bills, visit [www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov) and search by Bill Number.

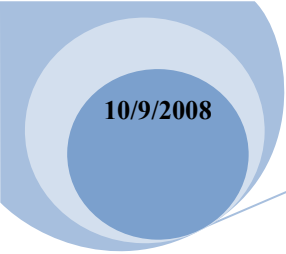
## WORTH NOTING FROM THE 110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

- First hearing on elder abuse in the House in 17 years (House of Representatives, Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, April 17, 2008)
- First passage of an elder justice bill by the House (H.R. 5352, passed 9/23/2008)
- First passage of the Kohl bill by the Finance Committee (9/22/2008)
- Third time EJA passed by the Senate Finance Committee (9/22/2008)

## Going Forward:

The Elder Justice Coalition will be convening a meeting in Washington DC of our Coordinating Committee and relevant Congressional staff soon after the 2008 election to discuss the Elder Justice Act and the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

In advance of that meeting, we welcome your input as members.



10/9/2008

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- Do you have suggestions for additional or different advocacy that the Coalition can do on behalf of elder justice?
- Should the term elder justice be continued or should we refer to the issue as elder abuse prevention?
- Do you have suggestions for any changes to the bill?

Please respond to [kbosse@matzblancato.com](mailto:kbosse@matzblancato.com) with your suggestions.