



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE
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PRESS RELEASE

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Sen. Testin and Rep. Macco Continue Efforts to Protect the Elderly from Abuse

Four Bills Were a Product of Former Attorney General’s Task Force

Madison, WI – Elder abuse is a growing problem both in Wisconsin and across the country – but legislators are fighting back. Today, Senator Patrick Testin (Stevens Point) and Representative John Macco (Ledgeview) reintroduced legislation to safeguard seniors from financial, emotional, and physical abuse.

The four-bill package, which was developed by the Attorney General’s Task Force on Elder Abuse, implements a variety of changes to strengthen protections for the elderly. These include increased penalties for abusers, enhanced options for financial security, and accommodations for the elderly in trial settings.

“These bills are the product of extensive study and cooperation between legislators, state agencies, law enforcement, victim advocates, citizen advocacy organizations, and many others who seek a secure future for our seniors,” said Sen. Testin, who served on the task force. “Last session, we brought together support for these bills from both sides of the aisle, as well as from AARP, the Alzheimer’s Association, the Board on Aging and Long Term Care, and the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources. Together, we can reduce elder abuse in Wisconsin.”

Rep. Macco, who was a member of the task force’s financial exploitation work group, agreed that this legislation would have a positive impact.

“Not only are these bills essential, but for me they are deeply personal,” said Rep. Macco. “Both my mother and mother-in-law were victims of financial abuse and it greatly impacted their lives. With more baby boomers retiring each day, it is critical that we take steps to protect Wisconsinites from similar acts of financial fraud and exploitation.”

Heather A. Bruemmer, the Executive Director and State Ombudsman from the Board on Aging and Long Term Care, sees a need for legislation addressing elder abuse. “We have seen an increase in the number of complaints related to elder abuse in our Ombudsman Program, so we believe that now is the time to enact bills to protect Wisconsin seniors,” said Bruemmer. “Thanks to Senator Testin and Representative Macco for their continued leadership on this issue.”

The four bills will circulate for co-sponsorship through Monday, January 18th.

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