

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Kevin Murphy, 113th Legislative District
Lackawanna County

DATE: January 6, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Re-introduction of Legislation Further Defining Exploitation of Older Persons (Former HB 288 of 2009-10 Session)

In the near future, I plan to re-introduce legislation that amends the Older Adults Protective Services Act to provide additional protections for older Pennsylvanians. This bill allows county agencies on aging to investigate cases involving financial exploitation of an older person even when the alleged perpetrator held power of attorney for the exploited individual.

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging estimates that 12.3% of all substantiated reports of elder abuse are abuses of financial exploitation. When ranked nationally, Pennsylvania has the third-highest percentage of adults over the age of 60; a figure that represents nearly 2.5 million people. It is clear that we must act to protect older Pennsylvanians.

This legislation was passed unanimously in the House last session by a vote of 198-0.

If you share my concern, please contact Steph in my office at shardman@pahouse.net. Thank you.