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February 7, 2011

MEMORANDUM

Subject:

Cosponsor Legislation - Elder Abuse

To:

All House Members

From:

Representative Thomas P. Murt

In the near future, I will be re-introducing legislation that I had offered last session to prohibit an employee of a long-term care facility from serving as a guardian of a consumer, an agent under a power of attorney of a consumer, a beneficiary of any insurance policy or annuity of a consumer, or an executor of the estate of a consumer. This proposal was prompted by a constituent case which involved a gentleman's father who entered a retirement home and was "convinced" by an employee of the institution to become his "good friend." Unfortunately, the "friend" became executor of his will and received a \$100,000 fee from the arrangement.

I believe that we must do what we can to ensure that vulnerable individuals in long-term care settings do not fall prey to persons who have the opportunity to exploit them. It is my understanding that financial exploitation is the fastest growing type of elder abuse, and, as our frail elderly population continues to grow, it is essential that we address this issue and take the steps necessary to prevent such future exploitation.

If you would like to be a cosponsor of this proposal, please contact Amy Bossart in my office by e-mailing her at <u>ABossart@pahousegop.com</u>

TPM/ab