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Date: March 23, 2021

To: The Honorable Senator Richard Hilderbrand, Chair
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

FROM: Mary Tritsch, AARP Kansas

RE: Support HB 2151, Creating Kansas elder and dependent adult abuse
multidisciplinary teams and a coordinator

Chairman Hilderbrand and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to present our written testimony. My name is Mary Tritsch and I am the Communications Director for AARP Kansas. On behalf of our more than 290,000 members in Kansas, we support HB 2151, which will create elder and dependent adult abuse multidisciplinary teams across Kansas and a statewide coordinator.

AARP has a long history of fighting for protections against elder abuse and we continue to be on the forefront of advocacy and educational efforts to break down silos and strengthen laws against all forms of elder abuse.

Elder abuse is a complex issue. It can be physical, financial, or psychological. It may take place at home or in an institutional setting. The consequences of elder abuse can include physical injuries, emotional distress, and financial hardship. Victims can be at increased risk for new illnesses and existing health conditions can get worse.

Detecting and preventing elder abuse requires increasing awareness. The general public, financial institutions, law enforcement, health professionals, and others all must be aware of the signs of abuse.

AARP supports the creation and use of multidisciplinary teams of professionals that can help address elder abuse issues. The state should continue to support the ongoing operation of these teams.

(Over)



We support the efforts in this bill to convene professionals from a variety of disciplines to improve detection, investigation, and enforcement regarding cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Everyone has the right to live free from abuse and neglect and be cared for respectfully.

Therefore, we support of HB 2151 and respectfully request your support of this legislation.

Thank you,
Mary Tritsch

