State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State's senior population is a remarkable source of knowledge, insight, and experience from which we can all learn and, as beneficiaries of their lifelong work, we are indebted to those elders who led the way for future generations by teaching valuable lessons and sharing the wisdom of their years; and

Whereas, according to the 2010 United States Census, New York State has the third-highest number of citizens, nationwide, over the age of 60; and

Whereas, we recognize the right of every older New Yorker to live in safety and dignity – and as independently as possible – with our full support and encouragement; however, each year, thousands of older New Yorkers suffer from neglect or are the victims of physical, emotional, or financial abuse; and

Whereas, a recent statewide study estimates that for every elder abuse case reported, 23 cases are unreported because of concerns that such information will lead to the institutionalization of the elderly person, or result in legal action of the family member or caregiver; and

Whereas, it is important to know the signs of elder abuse, which include physical trauma, withdrawal, depression, anxiety, and/or fear of family members, friends, or caregivers; and

Whereas, it is our collective responsibility to build safer communities for our seniors and to report any suspected abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation to the Adult Protective Services unit of local social services districts for investigation and intervention; and

Whereas, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day provides an opportunity for New Yorkers to raise awareness of the scope of elder abuse and educate the public about the warning signs of possible abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation; to encourage reporting of suspected elder abuse to the local Adult Protective Services unit and law enforcement; and to send a strong message that causing physical, emotional, or mental harm or injury, using methods of intimidation, taking advantage of a senior, or jeopardizing his or her health or welfare – is inexcusable and intolerable;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2014 as

ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this eleventh day of June in the year two thousand fourteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor