



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, the Empire State recognizes the importance of respecting the rights of older New Yorkers, as well as the importance of protecting their safety, with full support and encouragement for preserving their dignity and independence; and

**Whereas**, each year, thousands of older New Yorkers tragically suffer the effects of neglect or physical, emotional, or financial abuse; results from studies indicate that an estimated one in 24 cases of elder abuse is brought to the attention of authorities; 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, caregivers, or strangers; and

**Whereas**, elder abuse is a significant public health problem; survivors suffer higher levels of psychological distress, are twice as likely to be hospitalized, and face greater risk of an early death than other seniors; and

**Whereas**, it is our collective responsibility to provide for safe and secure communities and living environments for our seniors, and to encourage reporting of any suspected abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation to the Adult Protective Services of local social services districts, as well as law enforcement agencies, for investigation and intervention; and

**Whereas**, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was launched on June 15, 2006 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations, and was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2011; elder abuse is a global, social, and health and human rights issue that affects millions of older persons around the world and deserves the attention of the international community and

**Whereas**, the theme of this year's World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is "One Person, One Action, One Nation," providing an opportunity for New Yorkers to gain a better understanding of the problem and scope of abuse and neglect among older persons, and learn about the warning signs of possible abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation; all New Yorkers are united in sending a strong and clear message that causing physical, emotional, or mental harm or injury to a senior, taking advantage of a senior, using methods of intimidation, 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, 2015 as

## ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

in the Empire State.



**G i v e n** 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 fifteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor