

# CALL TO ACTION

# 2009

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the rising crime of elder abuse in any form is tragic and unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, elder financial abuse is frequently perpetrated by persons close to the elder who capitalize on that close relationship and the elder's trust; and

WHEREAS, elder financial abuse is largely unreported by elders due to embarrassment, dependence on the perpetrator, fear of retaliation, loss of independence; and

WHEREAS, elder financial abuse is devastating and can result in the loss of an entire life's savings, a home, and the elder's mental health; and

WHEREAS, an elder who has been financially abused is three times more likely to die as a result of the abuse;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that elder financial abuse can be prevented through awareness, by educating seniors and professionals who work with seniors; and Be it further resolved that the undersigned call upon members of the professional financial community to make senior consumer awareness a priority, and to work collaboratively to prevent elder abuse in their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the undersigned call for restored funding for the State of California Ombudsman program and Adult Services agencies, so that they may continue to provide effective response to the increasing reported incidents of elder abuse; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the undersigned endorse the Elder Abuse Victims Act passed by the House under the leadership of Speaker Nancy Pelosi to provide federal funds to step up prosecution of elder abuse cases. We the undersigned call upon the Senate to act on this bill; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the undersigned call upon Congress to commit to passing the more comprehensive Elder Justice Act to help protect our vulnerable seniors from the ravages of elder financial abuse, especially during the time of economic crisis.