



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Texas' seniors and Texans with disabilities are important members of our society whose unique experiences and perspectives enrich our lives. It is vital that Texans understand that the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly and people with disabilities is a widespread problem that demands and deserves our attention.

Almost 13 percent of Texans are 65 years of age and older; and roughly 11.8 percent of all Texans, more than 3.3 million, have a disability. With so many Texans at risk of abuse, we must work diligently to protect these vulnerable populations.

Emotional abuse, forced isolation, financial exploitation and physical injury are among the types of maltreatment that Texas' seniors and those with disabilities face every year. This abuse is underreported, as those who experience it are often scared and ashamed. These crimes affect Texans of all income levels and all cultural and ethnic groups, whether they are in good health or incapacitated in some way.

In 2019, Texas Adult Protective Services (APS) in-home caseworkers completed 85,047 investigations, of which 51,429 cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation were confirmed to have occurred against Texans who are older or those with disabilities. As part of its effort to prevent abuse, APS also conducts a public awareness campaign each year.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to ensure that we are taking the very best care of our Texans who are aging or disabled by reaching out to these communities across Texas and reporting any suspicion of abuse to the proper authorities.

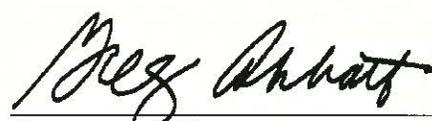
Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 2020, to be

Elder Abuse Prevention Month



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 14th day of April, 2020.


Governor of Texas