



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Texans have a duty to protect people of all ages from abuse, neglect and exploitation. In particular, elderly and disabled Texans are susceptible to becoming victims of these crimes. The Lone Star State is home to more than 3.1 million residents over the age of 65 and more than 1.8 million disabled adults, and 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 tens of thousands of elder Texans face every year. Abusive or neglectful caregivers may show anger or indifference toward their elders, prevent them from speaking to or seeing visitors, or take advantage of their financial resources. All Texans have an obligation to report suspicions of elder abuse or neglect through services like the Texas Abuse Hotline.

In 2015, the Adult Protective Services division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services investigated more than 78,000 complaints of abuse of elderly or disabled Texans. As part of its effort to prevent abuse and exploitation, 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 seniors by reaching out to the elderly in communities across Texas and, again, reporting any suspicion of abuse to the proper authorities.


Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 2017 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
13th day of April, 2017.


Governor of Texas