

# STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, elder abuse is a matter of concern worldwide, in the U.S. and in Illinois communities; and,*

*WHEREAS, in order to protect the rights and safety of some of our most vulnerable residents, we must build and maintain systems of support, and raise awareness of the prevalence of older adult abuse; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Department on Aging's Adult Protective Services (APS) program receives and investigates reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults aged 60 and older and persons with disabilities aged 18 to 59 who live in the community; and,*

*WHEREAS, in 2023, Illinois' APS program received more than 20,000 reports of alleged abuse, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, confinement, passive neglect, willful deprivation, abandonment, financial exploitation; and self-neglect; and,*

*WHEREAS, trained caseworkers investigate each report, working closely with law enforcement and community partners when appropriate to resolve instances of abuse to the satisfaction of the victim; and,*

*WHEREAS, Illinois' intervention model takes a holistic approach to elder abuse, acknowledging that at times caregiver stress is unintentionally a root cause of neglect or abuse, and connecting both victims and perpetrators with supportive services and resources; and,*

*WHEREAS, it is important for all Americans and all Illinoisans to learn to recognize and report any signs of mistreatment toward older adults; and,*

*WHEREAS, Illinois maintains a statewide 24-hour abuse hotline, which can be reached by calling 1-866-800-1409; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Department on Aging and its many partners in the fight against elder abuse are committed to creating a society where older adults can thrive and live free from mistreatment in their communities;*

*THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2024, as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Illinois.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,  
this ELEVENTH day of JUNE, in  
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and  
TWENTY-FOUR, and of the State of Illinois,  
two hundred and FIFTH.*



*Alexi Giannouch*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*JB Pritzker*  
GOVERNOR