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Date: February 3, 2021

To: The Honorable Susan Concannon, Chair  
House Children and Seniors Committee

FROM: Ernest Kutzley, AARP Kansas

RE: HB 2150, Creating a definition of financial exploitation, requiring additional mandatory reporters and increasing investigation days in the abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of certain adults.

Madam Chair and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to present our written testimony. My name is Ernest Kutzley and I am the Advocacy Director for AARP Kansas. On behalf of our more than 291,000 members in Kansas, we support HB 2150.

AARP has a long history of fighting for protections against elder abuse and continues to be on the forefront of advocacy and educational efforts to break down silos and strengthen laws against all forms of elder abuse.

Elder abuse is a complex issue. It can be physical, financial, or psychological. It may take place at home or in an institutional setting. The consequences of elder abuse can include physical injuries, emotional distress, and financial hardship. Victims can be at increased risk for new illnesses and existing health conditions can get worse.

Financial exploitation is the most prevalent form of elder abuse, affecting one in five older Americans and costing them \$3 billion per year. This problem is expected to worsen as the older population continues to grow.

Financial exploitation can cause injuries far beyond the pocketbook and can also affect an older adult's physical and emotional health. The state in many instances finds itself trying to pick up the pieces. Yet, efforts to prevent this abuse through the passage of stricter laws is often cost neutral to the state. The enactment of stronger safeguards against the abuse of elders is a win, win, situation for states, older adults and their families.

Everyone has the right to live free from abuse and neglect and be cared for respectfully. Therefore, we support HB 2150 and respectfully request your support of this legislation.

Thank you,  
Ernest Kutzley

AARP  
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