



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL ON AGING
PO Box 45600 · Olympia, WA 98504-5600

June 4, 2013

The Honorable Andy Hill
Chair Senate Ways & Means Committee
303 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40445
Olympia, WA 98504-0445

Dear Senator Hill,

I'm writing on behalf of the State Council on Aging to request your support for increased funding for Adult Protective Services, DSHS.

The protection of vulnerable adults is a priority issue for the State Council on Aging and a Council representative is also a long term member of the Vulnerable Adults Workgroup. As you may be aware, this work group continues to conduct extensive systems review and make recommendations to address the needs of vulnerable adults.

As you know, the legislature has given the DSHS the responsibility to investigate complaints of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of vulnerable adults and to provide protective services and other legal remedies to protect these vulnerable adults.

For DSHS to fulfill this mandate, the Council believes it's critical to reduce Adult Protective Services (APS) caseloads and also improve response and investigation times for vulnerable adults. The number of APS staff has not kept pace with increases in the number of required investigations. To demonstrate how APS remains under staffed, it's reported that between 2008 and 2012 APS staffing increases have averaged 9% and during the same period APS investigations increased by 25%. In the absence of increasing APS staff this trend will worsen.

Thank you for considering our request and our concerns about protecting our most vulnerable citizens. If you have any questions about our position please feel free to contact me at Merachko@comcast.net or phone me at 509-993-5719.

Sincerely,

Marie E. Raschko-Sokol
Chair, Washington State Council on Aging

Cc: Senator Michael Baumgartner, Vice Chair
Senator James Hargrove, Ranking Member
Senator Sharon Nelson, Assistant Ranking Member
Kevin Quigley, Secretary Department of Social and Health Services
Jason McGill, Health Policy, Governor's Office
Bill Moss, Acting Assistant Secretary, Aging & Long-Term Support Administration