



National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs

October 21, 2011

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 302
Washington, D.C. 20510

The National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP) is proud to endorse and support the Guardian Accountability and Senior Protection Act that you are introducing.

Representatives of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, identify, investigate, and resolve complaints made by or on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities that directly affect their health safety, welfare, or rights. In addition to working on individual concerns, Ombudsmen identify problems and advocate for systemic changes.

In our work, we see many caring and professional and family guardians. We also see many abuses of the system, including conservators who exploit and neglect their conservatees.

Your proposal to require background checks for anyone seeking to be a guardian or conservator is an excellent way to identify inappropriate persons from becoming guardians. In addition, we support your concept of establishing and appropriating funds for adult guardianship pilot programs. This bill aligns with last week's Third National Guardianship Summit (which NASOP supported) and with policies the American Bar Association has developed over many years.

NASOP appreciates and applauds your efforts to improve the advocacy of guardians and conservators for vulnerable adults who need their help and protection. We look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Joseph Rodrigues, President

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