

August 19, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden Chairman, Senate Finance Committee 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

## RE: Support of the Elder Justice Reauthorization and Modernization Act of 2021 (S. 2674)

Dear Chairman Wyden:

On behalf of the National Association of County Human Services Administrators (NACHSA), I want to express our support of the *Elder Justice Reauthorization and Modernization Act of 2021* (S. 2674). An affiliate of the National Association of Counties (NACo), NACHSA represents county human services directors.

Until late last year when Congress appropriated \$100 million for state and local administration of adult protective services (APS) programs in the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021* (P.L. 116-260), APS was financed entirely with state and county funding and supplemented in some states with the Social Services Block Grant. In county-administered states, most human services agencies have the responsibility for protecting older adults and persons with disabilities.

NACHSA supports the bill's continued and increased federal investment in APS. Our Association strongly supports the \$400 million in federal support for each of fiscal years (FY) 2023-2025 in grants to supplement state and county APS services. We also support the bill's provision to award \$75 million for each of FY's 2023-2025 to states to conduct APS demonstration programs. States may use grant funds for a range of activities, such as detecting or preventing elder abuse, addressing financial exploitation, and focusing on guardianship and conservatorship proceedings.

Thank you for introducing this important bill. If your staff have any questions, please have them contact Tom Joseph, NACHSA Washington Representative, at <u>tj@paragonlobbying.com</u> or 202.449.0398.

Sincerely,

Cland. H. Tuck

Claudia Tuck President, NACHSA Director, Community Support Services Alachua County, Florida