

## Bipartisan Bill Curbing Crimes against Seniors Approved in Congress, Sent to President to Become Law

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WASHINGTON – Bipartisan [legislation](#) stepping up enforcement against perpetrators of crimes targeting senior citizens is headed to the President’s desk to be signed into law. The *Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act of 2017*, originally introduced and championed by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), passed the House of Representatives by voice vote today. The bill [passed the Senate](#) by voice vote in early August.

*“I’m very pleased our bipartisan efforts have paid off and that the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act is bound for the President’s signature. Exploiting and defrauding seniors is cowardly, and these crimes should be addressed as the reprehensible acts they are. Our legislation will enhance our nation’s response to these crimes and help families across America by equipping law enforcement, seniors and caregivers with additional training and tools to better deter crimes and hold perpetrators accountable. And it sends a clear signal from Congress that combatting elder abuse and exploitation should be a top priority for law enforcement,” Grassley said. “I urge President Trump to sign and implement this law as soon as possible to aid American seniors and families in their pursuit of justice.”*

*“Robert Matava was a national hero, one of the greatest of the great generation. He deserved the utmost respect and care during his senior years. Instead—in a tragedy all too common across our country—he was defrauded by those he trusted the most. By raising awareness, improving prevention and increasing prosecution, this bipartisan effort will help combat the unconscionable scourge of elder abuse nationwide for years to come,” Blumenthal said.*

You can read a one-page bill summary [here](#) or full text of the bill [here](#). The bill has the endorsement of numerous organizations, including the Elder Justice Coalition, the American Bar Association, the National Center for Victims of Crime, and the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, among others. Other cosponsors include Senators Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), Robert P. Casey (D-Pa.), Susan Collins (R-Maine), John Cornyn (R-Texas), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Al Franken (D-Minn.), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Marco Rubio (D-Fla.) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.).