



# ELDER LAW & ADVOCACY

Legal Services and Medicare Counseling & Advocacy for Seniors [www.seniorlaw-sd.org](http://www.seniorlaw-sd.org)

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Serving San Diego and Imperial Counties

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March 31, 2014

Senator Mark Leno, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Leno,

I am writing on behalf Elder Law & Advocacy to urge the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee to restore funding to Department of Aging programs and services. Elder Law & Advocacy, which was established in 1978, serves and advocates for over 8,000 seniors every year throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties regarding a multitude of legal issues, including elder abuse.

The Department of Aging provides essential services to older Californians, their families, and their communities. Title III of the Older Americans Act authorizes the Department of Aging to provide legal advocacy services for older Californians. Our staff attorneys and pro bono attorneys consult and advise seniors and family caregivers regarding a wide array of important legal issues. These legal issues include financial elder abuse, consumer fraud, debt, foreclosures, public benefits, landlord/tenant disputes, and preparation of legal documents. Many of our clients are low income minorities who are seniors; homebound and isolated seniors; and seniors age sixty and over.

In addition, Elder Law & Advocacy's Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) counsels and educates seniors regarding their health care options. Our counselors and volunteers offer unbiased, impartial information to Medicare beneficiaries as well as Medi-Cal and Medicare dual beneficiaries.

Our Nursing Home Rights Enforcement Project advocates and litigates for patient residents in skilled nursing facilities. As the number of people requiring care in nursing home increases, physical, emotional, and financial abuse and neglect are becoming more prevalent.

Our community-based programs and services protect the health, safety, and rights of older Californians. Therefore, I urge you to restore funding for these and other related programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Reilly'.

Carolyn Reilly  
Executive Director  
Elder Law & Advocacy