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August 2, 2006

Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chair
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Max Baucus
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Baucus:

I am writing to you on behalf of the American Bar Association regarding your Committee's mark-up tomorrow of S. 2010, the "Elder Justice Act." The Senate Finance Committee has before it a tremendous opportunity to address in a strong bipartisan way the growing national problem of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation – a domestic and institutional tragedy that causes serious harm to between 500,000 and 5 million individuals each year. The American Bar Association strongly supports enactment of this legislation.

No current Federal law adequately and comprehensively addresses issues of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and there are very limited resources available to those in the field directly dealing with these issues. The "Elder Justice Act" would create infrastructure, and provide resources needed to develop and implement a nationally coordinated strategy in collaboration with the states to make elder justice a reality. As elder justice is central to any viable notion of the rule of law and social justice, ABA policy "supports efforts to improve the response of the federal, state, territorial and local governments and of the criminal and civil justice systems to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation" through, among other things, the creation of "a nationwide structure for raising public awareness; supporting research, training and technical assistance; funding critical services; and coordinating local, territorial, state, and national resources." Enactment of the "Elder Justice Act" can make that goal a reality, and we urge the Finance Committee to approve this legislation.

Sincerely yours,



Robert D. Evans
cc. Members of the Committee on Finance