

OLDER IOWANS LEGISLATURE
2007 PRIORITY BILLS

**#2 Priority Senior Issue: Bill 07-17 Amended
Elder Abuse Initiative Program**

An act relating to the establishment of Iowa's Elder Abuse Initiative Program to serve all Iowans instead of only 19 counties.

EXPLANATION

- Iowa's Elder Abuse Initiative Program has been successful in 19 counties under the direction of 4 Area Agencies on Aging.
- The program focuses on the prevention, intervention, detection and reporting of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation by advising seniors of the options to enhance their lifestyle choices.
- Elder abuse can be physical, sexual, financial, psychological or even denial of critical health care.
- This program maximizes coordination of local community resources as well as state and federal resources. Iowa's Elder Abuse Initiative Program is a cooperative partnership between the Department of Elder Affairs, the Department of Human Services, Area Agencies on Aging as well as area health and human services providers.
- It has been reported that during FY 2005 the four Elder Abuse Projects have saved in excess of \$6 million of Title XIX appropriations by assisting seniors to stay in their own homes.

IMPACT

- A large potential savings (estimated at \$27 million) of state and federal Medicaid can be realized by expanding the Elder Abuse Initiative Program statewide.
- The state financial reports from the pilot program show these programs are extremely successful and huge cost savings.

The Older Iowans Legislature asks that the success and cost savings of the Elder Abuse Initiative Program be expanded to the entire state of Iowa.

PENDING BILLS FROM THE 2007 SESSION OF IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Senate File 64
By Bolkcom
A bill for an act relating to and making an appropriation to the department of elder affairs for statewide expansion of the elder abuse initiative program.
January 30, 2007 Introduced, referred to Appropriations
January 30, 2007 Subcommittee, Ragan, Bolkcom, and Seymour
- House File 190
By Bailey
A bill for an act providing for and making an appropriation to the department of elder affairs for statewide expansion of the elder abuse initiative program.
February 1, 2007 Introduced, referred to Appropriations
February 7, 2007 Subcommittee, Foege, Heaton, and Kuhn