



JOHN J. MACCO

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 88TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

To the Assembly Committee on Mental Health Reform,

Thank you Representative Tittl and members of the Assembly Committee on Mental Health Reform for hearing AB 789. I wrote this bill in honor of my mother-in-law, Doris. Doris devoted her life to helping others and raising a loving family. However, in her later years she lost many of her mental faculties and needs additional assistance.

Sadly, she was taken advantage of because of her compromised state, and because of cracks in our legal system had much of the life she built for herself taken away. After research, I found my mother-in-law's case is not an isolated incident.

Within fifteen years Wisconsin will see one-fourth of our population in the vulnerable ranks of the elderly. Older Americans hold 70% of the nation's wealth as compared to the general population. In instances where elderly individuals experience declining cognitive or physical abilities, they may find themselves more reliant on specific individuals for their physical wellbeing, financial management and social interaction. While anyone can be a victim, elderly individuals may be particularly vulnerable to embezzlement and fraud.

AB 789 asks those involved in the legal profession to be a safeguard against fraud and abuse. My bill asks the Wisconsin Supreme Court to promulgate rules to require some of the already mandated continuing education for lawyers and judges be spent on elder abuse and fraud. As with my job in the financial services industry, keeping up to date on new tactics and schemes through continuing education means we are able to stop fraud and abuse in its tracks.

It is my hope this bill will create an environment in Wisconsin where situations similar to what happened to Doris never happen again. I thank you once again and ask for your support on AB 789.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Macco", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John J. Macco
Representative
88th Assembly District