

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY 2021

WHEREAS, after a lifetime of contributions to their families, their communities, and our state, every Missourian deserves to live out his or her days in health and security, yet, every year, millions of older Americans are denied the opportunity due to abuse, neglect or exploitation; and

WHEREAS, on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, we call attention to this global public health crisis, and we recommit to ending this abuse, supporting those who are victims, and holding perpetrators accountable; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse can take many forms – including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as neglect, bullying, abandonment, and financial exploitation – and it is important for all Missourians to learn how to recognize and report mistreatment; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse victims are our friends, neighbors, parents, grandparents, and loved ones and the issue cuts across race, gender, culture, and socioeconomic status and takes an unacceptable toll on individuals and families across our state; and

WHEREAS, seniors who experience abuse or neglect face a heightened risk of health complications and premature death, while financial exploitation can rob men and women of the security they have built over a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, experts believe that for every one case of elder abuse or neglect reported to authorities, as many as 23 cases go unreported; and

WHEREAS, every day, the Department of Health and Senior Services, local agencies, protective services professionals, law enforcement officers, private and nonprofit organizations, and leaders throughout our communities help protect older Missourians from abuse and provide care to those who have already been affected; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline responds to reports of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation 365 days per year, from 7 a.m. to midnight. Reports can also be submitted online 24 hours a day 365 days per year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, Governor of the State of Missouri, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Missouri do hereby proclaim observance of June 15, 2021, as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Missouri. I call upon all Missourians to observe this day by wearing purple to show their support in the worldwide effort to prevent elder abuse, learning the signs of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and raising awareness about this public health issue.