



Testimony in Support of HB 4084
Submitted by: Northwest Credit Union Association
February 3, 2012

HB4084 is a bill that, among many things, would require financial institutions, upon receipt of certification, to disclose and provide copies of financial records of person who is alleged victim in abuse investigation.

We would like to commend Representative Gilliam and Representative Hoyle for their hard work and dedication to bringing the overall elder abuse bill before you today. We would also like to thank our own Gayle Gustafson of Rivermark Community Credit Union for her time and effort on the Elder Abuse Task Force.

According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, between two and five million seniors are subjected to the improper use of their funds, property, or assets each year. Many cases of elder abuse go unreported because victims fear loved ones will be arrested, as perpetrators tend to be caregivers or family members.

Elder financial abuse includes a broad range of actions, and can be defined as the illegal or unauthorized use of an older person's property, money, pension, or other valuables occurring in a relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person. Perpetrators of this type of abuse include anyone in a position of control or authority such as a partner, child, or other relation, a friend or neighbor, a volunteer worker, or a health, social care or other worker.

Credit unions are among those that have the ability to first detect changes in the behaviors of their members with whom they have regular contact. Recognizing elder financial abuse is a crucial step in combating this abuse, and mandatory training will put credit unions in a position that will help their elderly members and continue to allow credit unions to uphold their members' trust.

HB 4084 – We were pleased to work with the Department of Human Services on their specific language in HB 4084 that would assist them in obtaining records from financial institutions in an effort to protect victims in a financial abuse. The bill also protects financial institutions in Section 10 (4) and (5) by allowing a **“financial institution that supplies copies of financial records under this section shall be reimbursed for actual costs incurred,”** and not holding a financial institution liable for the information provided, **“a financial institution that supplies copies of financial records under to this section is not liable to any person for any loss, damage or injury arising out of or in any way pertaining to the disclosure of the copies under this section.”**

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