



Testimony in Support of HB2205
Northwest Credit Union Association
April 8, 2013

HB2205 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. It removes the sunset provision set last session on access to financial records. The Northwest Credit Union Association supports HB2205 with the -5 amendment.

We would like to commend Representative Gilliam and Representative Hoyle for their hard work and years of dedication to solving issues related to elder abuse

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, our diligent 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.

We were pleased to support the specific language in the -5 amendment which states, "for the purposes of this section, a reasonable period of time shall in no case be less than 10 days from the date upon which the financial institution receives or is served with a customer authorization, summons, subpoena or search warrant."

Thank you for your consideration of HB2205.

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