



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michael F. Nozzolio

## Senator Mike Nozzolio Announces Legislation to Aid Victims of Elder Abuse Signed Into Law

MICHAEL F. NOZZOLIO September 22, 2014

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Continuing his fight to combat the rising trend of elder abuse, State Senator Michael Nozzolio, Chairman of Senate Codes Committee, announced today that legislation he sponsored, to protect elderly individuals from becoming victims of abuse, was signed into law.

Senator Nozzolio's legislation, S.7188, supports elderly crime victims who must testify in court by allowing a caregiver or family member to accompany them to court.

"Nothing is more important than ensuring the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable citizens. I strongly believe that we must do everything possible to ensure that our seniors are treated with all the dignity and respect they deserve," said Senator Nozzolio. "This important legislation will make sure crime victims get the help and support they need physically and emotionally."

It is estimated that only one in five instances of elder abuse are ever reported. Just like any other form of domestic violence, elder abuse occurs across every demographic and can take many forms, from physical abuse to financial exploitation.

Unfortunately, many seniors fall prey to crimes of financial abuse, including theft, concealment of funds or the theft of their personal property, such as jewelry and other valuables. While they may have adequate financial resources, they can be victimized by others whose only objective is to gain access to their personal information.

Senator Nozzolio has also introduced legislation (S.7187) which would clarify present law and help prevent dishonest contractors who persuade their victims to pay in full for services and then abscond with the victim's money. This measure was enacted in the State Senate, but remained in the Assembly Codes Committee.

"It has been a pleasure for me to help lead the fight in combating and preventing elder abuse. Our community's seniors have made - and continue to make - enduring contributions to our Nation, our State, and our local communities. That is why acts of violence and abuse against the elderly have a devastating impact on our entire community. While New York has made great advances over the years in protecting our senior citizens, legislative measures such as these will help further protect the safety and security of our seniors," concluded Senator Nozzolio.