

BEYOND BROOKE

ADVANCING ELDER JUSTICE

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

February 14, 2017

Re: Part AA of Senate bill 2008/Assembly bill 3008
Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write in support of your steadfast effort to combat elder abuse through comprehensive planning, as included in your Executive Budget proposal.

In seeking to help my grandmother – the late Brooke Astor, New York philanthropist – my greatest concern was her psychological abuse, one of the most difficult forms of elder abuse to give credence to, much less document and assess. So, in large part, financials were my fallback. I know now that the financials are at the forefront of our campaign to detect, arrest and even prevent abuse – in its many forms.

To be complacent about elder justice is to be complicit in elder abuse. Our silence protects perpetrators, not their victims. Seniors and society deserve better. Your Executive Budget proposal will help protect seniors' net worth, self worth and lives. Training, which is critical to implementation and success, will be achieved by your proposed Elder Abuse Certification Program.

Your proposal will underscore our shared responsibility – and, critically, our ability to respond – to suspected elder financial exploitation and associated abuse seniors endure, time and again.

New York has taken a leadership role to inform elder justice through research, notably in *Under the Radar: New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study* (2011), *New York State Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention Services Survey: Report of Findings* (2016), and *The New York State Cost of Financial Exploitation Study* (2016). I cite these, nationwide. Your comprehensive plan and the language you included in the budget will be one more step forward, hand in hand, with seniors.

Sincerely,



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