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NALLTCO Comments for The Elder Justice Act Reauthorization and Modernization Act of 2023

Subsection (a). Nursing home worker training grants

NALLTCO strongly agrees that training for care facility staff is essential to protecting the health and well-being of residents. However, it is important to note that federal Civil Monetary Penalty (CMP) Grant requirements have recently been revised and are now dedicated exclusively to funding staff training, providing another avenue to support this goal.

We recommend revising this section to specify the training topics that should be required for the use of these funds. At a minimum, the training should include:

- Recognizing abuse and neglect
- Effective methods and best practices to prevent abuse and neglect
- Mandated reporting requirements for abuse and neglect
- Best practices for providing resident centered care

Subsection (b). Funding for Adult Protective Services (APS) functions and grant programs.

NALLTCO strongly supports ensuring adequate and sustainable funding for Adult Protective Services (APS).

Subsection (c). Funding for long-term care (LTC) ombudsman program grants and training.

We strongly support ensuring adequate funding for Ombudsman programs, as they are uniquely positioned to both prevent abuse and respond to instances of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of long-term care residents.

NALLTCO is firmly opposed to any language that would divert funding intended for Ombudsman programs to "eligible entities with relevant expertise and experience in abuse and neglect in LTC facilities." These funds should be reserved exclusively for designated Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs.

Subsection (d). Incentives for developing and sustaining structural competency in providing health and human services. Grants to states to support linkages to legal services and medical-legal partnerships (MLPs).

NALLTCO supports funding for Medical-Legal Partnerships (MLPs) and recommends giving priority to existing legal services providers funded under the Older Americans Act to deliver these services whenever possible.