

# State of North Carolina



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

## ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

2009

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, North Carolina joins the world in recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2009; and

WHEREAS, national and international research shows that abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable and older adults are grossly underreported; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's vulnerable and older adults of all socio-economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds may be targets of abuse, neglect or exploitation which occurs in families, long term care facilities and communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina enacted the nation's first elder abuse law in 1973, aimed at protecting older and vulnerable adults age eighteen to fifty-nine and recognizes the need for a comprehensive system of protection; and

WHEREAS, there is a rapidly growing population of older adults in North Carolina with evolving needs; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2008 more than 15,000 reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable and older adults were made to North Carolina's 100 county Department of Social Services Office; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Aging and Adult Services partners with county departments of social services to offer a statewide Adult Protective Services Program and with area agencies on aging to increase awareness about elder abuse through its Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and with the State Attorney General's Office to assist victims of telemarketing scams; and

WHEREAS, protecting North Carolina's vulnerable and older adults is a societal responsibility and it is imperative that communities work together to help reduce and prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2009, as "ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY" in North Carolina and encourage our citizens to participate in community efforts to support and improve the safety and well-being of vulnerable and older adults and secure their right to live free of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-first day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.