



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Maryland Officials & Non-Profits Unite to Combat Elder Financial Abuse *PROTECT Week 2021 Coincides With World Elder Abuse Awareness Day***

- WHO:** Peter Franchot, Comptroller of Maryland  
Brian Frosh, Attorney General of Maryland  
Jonathan Lenzner, Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland  
Tony Salazar, Commissioner of Financial Regulation (MD LABOR)  
Dorinda Adams, Director of the Office of Adult Services (MDH)  
AARP Maryland State Director Hank Greenberg, Co-host  
CCCSMD President Helene Raynaud, Co-host
- WHAT:** Press Conference Announcing PROTECT Week (Preventing Older Americans From Financial Exploitation) Statewide Public Education Campaign
- WHEN:** Monday, June 14, 2021 at 2 p.m. EDT
- WHERE:** Online at [www.Facebook.com/aarpmaryland](http://www.Facebook.com/aarpmaryland) and [www.YouTube.com/aarpmaryland](http://www.YouTube.com/aarpmaryland)
- CONTACT:** Nancy Carr, 443-787-5382 or [ncarr@aarp.org](mailto:ncarr@aarp.org)  
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Maryland, along with states across the country, has experienced a significant increase in the number of financial exploitation cases over the last few years, particularly those involving seniors. Exploitation occurs when a person misuses or takes the assets of a vulnerable adult to benefit themselves. This frequently happens without the explicit knowledge or consent of an older or vulnerable adult, depriving the victim of vital financial resources. Many of the cases are perpetrated by professional scammers, but most exploitation is carried out by acquaintances and trusted “friends.”

Now in its fourth year, PROTECT Week runs from June 13-19, 2021 and coincides with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, observed June 15. The week features a series of free virtual workshops, telephone town halls and webinars on how to spot and stop the abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of older adults.

To register for the teletown halls, visit [www.vekeo.com/aarpmaryland](http://www.vekeo.com/aarpmaryland) or enjoy the livestream at [Facebook.com/aarpmd](https://www.facebook.com/aarpmd). For a complete list of resources and events visit [www.protectweek.org](http://www.protectweek.org).

#### **About the Partners**

The PROTECT Week Coalition brings together state and federal agencies, local organizations, and financial professionals who share a common goal of preventing and remedying financial exploitation of older Marylanders

- Maryland Department of Aging
- Maryland Office of the Attorney General
- Maryland Office of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation (MD LABOR)
- Maryland Office of the Comptroller
- Maryland Department of Human Services
- Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service
- Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition
- Governor's Office on Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services
- EverSafe
- ElderSAFE
- Baltimore County Restoring Elder Safety Today – BC REST Coalition
- AARP Maryland
- CCCSMD – Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Maryland
- CHANA
- BBB of Greater Maryland

Visit [www.protectweek.org](http://www.protectweek.org) for event details and registration.

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