

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# S. 205

To establish research, development, and dissemination programs to assist State and local agencies in preventing crime against the elderly, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 26 (legislative day, JANUARY 5), 1993

Mr. ROTH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To establish research, development, and dissemination programs to assist State and local agencies in preventing crime against the elderly, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “National Triad  
5       Program Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that—

8               (1) older Americans are among the most rapidly  
9       growing segments of our society;

1           (2) currently, the elderly comprise 15 percent of  
2           our society, and predictions are that by the turn of  
3           the century they will constitute 18 percent of our  
4           Nation's population;

5           (3) older Americans find themselves uniquely  
6           situated in our society, environmentally and phys-  
7           ically;

8           (4) many elderly Americans are experiencing in-  
9           creased social isolation due to fragmented and dis-  
10          tant familial relations, scattered associations, limited  
11          access to transportation, and other insulating fac-  
12          tors;

13          (5) physical conditions such as hearing loss,  
14          poor eyesight, lessened agility, and chronic and de-  
15          bilitating illnesses often contribute to an older per-  
16          son's susceptibility to criminal victimization;

17          (6) our elders are too frequently the victims of  
18          abuse and neglect, violent crime, property crime,  
19          consumer fraud, medical quackery, and confidence  
20          games;

21          (7) studies have found that elderly victims of  
22          violent crime are more likely to be injured and re-  
23          quire medical attention than are younger victims;

24          (8) victimization data on crimes against the el-  
25          derly are incomplete and out of date, and data

1 sources are partial, scattered, and not easily  
2 obtained;

3 (9) although a few studies have attempted to  
4 define and estimate the extent of elder abuse and  
5 neglect, both in their homes and in institutional set-  
6 tings, many experts believe that this crime is sub-  
7 stantially underreported and undetected;

8 (10) similarly, while some evidence suggests  
9 that the elderly may be targeted in a range of fraud-  
10 ulent schemes, neither the Uniform Crime Report  
11 nor the National Crime Survey collects data on  
12 individual- or household-level fraud;

13 (11) law enforcement officers and social service  
14 providers come from different disciplines and fre-  
15 quently bring different perspectives to the problem  
16 of crimes against the elderly;

17 (12) these differences, in turn, can contribute  
18 to inconsistent approaches to the problem and in-  
19 hibit a genuinely effective response;

20 (13) there are, however, a few efforts currently  
21 under way that seek to forge partnerships to coordi-  
22 nate criminal justice and social service approaches to  
23 victimization of the elderly;

24 (14) the Triad program, sponsored by the Na-  
25 tional Sheriffs' Association (NSA), the International

1 Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the  
2 American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), is  
3 one such effort;

4 (15) recognizing that older Americans have the  
5 same fundamental desire as other members of our  
6 society to live freely, without fear or restriction due  
7 to the criminal element, the Federal Government  
8 seeks to expand efforts to reduce crime against this  
9 growing and uniquely vulnerable segment of our  
10 population; and

11 (16) our goal is to support a coordinated effort  
12 among law enforcement and social service agencies  
13 to stem the tide of transgenerational violence against  
14 the elderly and to support media and nonmedia  
15 strategies aimed at increasing both public under-  
16 standing of the problem and the elderly person's  
17 skills in preventing crime against themselves and  
18 their property.

19 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

20 The purpose of this Act is to address the problem  
21 of crime against the elderly in a systematic and effective  
22 manner with a program of practical and focused research,  
23 development, and dissemination designed to assist States  
24 and units of local government in implementing specific  
25 programs of crime prevention, victim assistance, citizen in-

1 v olvement, and public education that offer a high prob-  
2 ability of improving the coordinated effectiveness of law  
3 enforcement and social service efforts. The efforts of local  
4 coalitions, such as the Triad model being piloted in a num-  
5 ber of areas by National Sheriffs' Association, Inter-  
6 national Association of the Chiefs of Police, and American  
7 Association of Retired Persons, are of particular interest.

8 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND DISSEMINATION.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National In-  
10 stitute of Justice (referred to as the “Director”) shall con-  
11 duct a national assessment of—

12 (1) the nature and extent of crimes against the  
13 elderly;

14 (2) the needs of law enforcement, health, and  
15 social service organizations in working to prevent,  
16 identify, investigate, and provide assistance to vic-  
17 tims of those crimes; and

18 (3) promising strategies to respond effectively  
19 to those challenges.

20 (b) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—The national as-  
21 sessment made pursuant to subsection (a) shall address—

22 (1) the analysis and synthesis of data from a  
23 range of sources in order to develop accurate infor-  
24 mation on the nature and extent of crimes against  
25 the elderly, including identifying and conducting

1 such surveys and other data collection efforts as are  
2 needed and designing a strategy to keep such infor-  
3 mation current over time;

4 (2) the problem of the most vulnerable and  
5 hard-to-reach elderly who are in poor health, are liv-  
6 ing alone or without family nearby, or are living in  
7 high crime areas;

8 (3) the problem of elderly who are abused and  
9 neglected, sometimes in the home and sometimes in  
10 health care facilities, sometimes subjected to phys-  
11 ical abuse and at other times to verbal aggression  
12 and neglect;

13 (4) the problem of fear of victimization, which  
14 inhibits the freedom of the elderly and can make  
15 them prisoners in their homes;

16 (5) the identification of strategies and tech-  
17 niques that have been shown to be effective, or ap-  
18 pear to hold promise of being effective, in respond-  
19 ing to the problems described in this subsection and  
20 in preventing, reducing, and ameliorating the impact  
21 of crime against the elderly;

22 (6) the analysis of the factors that enhance or  
23 inhibit development of a coordinated response by law  
24 enforcement, health care, and social service provid-

1       ers to crimes against the elderly and the treatment  
2       of elderly victims; and

3           (7) the research agenda needed to develop a  
4       comprehensive understanding of the problems of  
5       crimes against the elderly, including the changes an-  
6       ticipated in the crimes themselves and appropriate  
7       responses as our society increasingly ages, and the  
8       identification and evaluation of effective and fiscally  
9       feasible approaches to prevent and reduce victimiza-  
10      tion of our Nation's elderly citizens.

11      (c) DISSEMINATION.—Based on the results of the na-  
12      tional assessment and analysis of successful or promising  
13      strategies in dealing with the problems described in sub-  
14      section (b) and other problems, including coalition efforts  
15      such as the Triad programs referred to in sections 2 and  
16      3, the Director shall disseminate the results through re-  
17      ports, publications, clearinghouse services, public service  
18      announcements, and programs of evaluation, demonstra-  
19      tion, training, and technical assistance.

20      **SEC. 5. PILOT PROGRAMS.**

21      (a) AWARDS.—The Director may make awards to  
22      coalitions of local law enforcement agencies, victim service  
23      providers, and organizations representing the elderly for  
24      pilot programs and field tests of particularly promising  
25      strategies and models for forging partnerships for crime

1 prevention and service provision based on the concepts of  
2 the Triad model, which can then be evaluated and serve  
3 as the basis for further demonstration and education pro-  
4 grams.

5 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Pilot programs funded under this  
6 section may include existing general service coalitions of  
7 law enforcement, victim service, and elder advocate organi-  
8 zations that wish to use additional funds to work at a par-  
9 ticular problem in their community, such as fraud, bur-  
10 glary, or abuse and neglect, or to target a particular geo-  
11 graphic area in need of intensive services.

12 **SEC. 6. EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION AWARDS.**

13 In conjunction with the national assessment under  
14 section 4 and the pilot programs under section 5, the  
15 Director may make awards to—

16 (1) coalitions of national law enforcement, vic-  
17 tim service, and elder advocate organizations, for the  
18 purposes of providing training and technical assist-  
19 ance in implementing pilot programs, including pro-  
20 grams based on the concepts of the Triad;

21 (2) research organizations, for the purposes  
22 of—

23 (A) investigating the types of elder victim-  
24 ization shown by the national assessment to

1 present particularly critical problems or to be  
2 emerging crimes about which little is known;

3 (B) evaluating the effectiveness of selected  
4 pilot programs; and

5 (C) conducting the research and develop-  
6 ment identified through the national assessment  
7 as being critical; and

8 (3) public service advertising coalitions, for the  
9 purposes of mounting a program of public service  
10 advertisements to increase public awareness and un-  
11 derstanding of the issues surrounding crimes against  
12 the elderly and promoting ideas or programs to  
13 prevent them.

14 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 Of amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Na-  
16 tional Institute of Justice under section 1001(a)(2) of the  
17 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42  
18 U.S.C. 3793(a)(2)), \$5,000,000 shall be available to carry  
19 out this Act, of which—

20 (1) up to \$2,000,000 may be used to fund up  
21 to 20 pilot programs;

22 (2) up to \$1,000,000 may be used to fund a na-  
23 tional training and technical assistance effort;

24 (3) up to \$1,000,000 may be used to develop  
25 public service announcements; and

1           (4) up to \$1,000,000 may be used for the na-  
2           tional assessment, the evaluation of pilot programs,  
3           and the carrying out of the research agenda.

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