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## **EJC SAYS HHS REORGANIZATION HARMS ELDER JUSTICE**

The nonpartisan 2,000-member Elder Justice Coalition today was critical of the announced reorganization of the Department of Health and Human Services, charging that it "makes elder justice disappear inside the new bureaucracy it creates."

In particular, the Coalition called out the language in the reorganization plan which would fold the existing Administration for Community Living into three separate existing HHS units.

"The net result of this is to take the one agency with responsibility for elder justice, including adult protective services and the long-term care ombudsman, and move it into agencies which have little or no existing jurisdiction or expertise in elder justice. The net result will be a greatly diminished federal effort to combat elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation," said Bob Blancato, EJC National Coordinator.

The EJC called on the Senate Special Committee on Aging as well as the standing committees of jurisdiction to call immediate hearings to get further details into the reorganization and work to have ACL exempted from the reorganization.

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Press Contact: Kloe Lloyd Phone: 202-789-0470

**Email:** kloe@elderjusticecoalition.com

## About EJC

Our nonpartisan coalition is 2,000 members strong, spanning all generations. Comprised of individuals and organizations, we are a resource to Congress, the Administration, media, and the general public to raise awareness of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and help develop and advocate for national policies to end this crisis. For more information, go to www.elderjusticecoalition.com.