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Dear Senator Tavares:

The C3A Consortium Against Adult Abuse respectfully requests that you vote to fund Adult Protective Services (APS) at \$20,000,000 per year.

The mission of the C3A Consortium Against Adult Abuse is to advocate for adults who are abused, neglected and/or financially exploited, often by the very people who are entrusted with their care.

We encourage Ohio's leaders to take a strong stand against adult abuse by recognizing the need for, as well as voting to fund, Adult Protective Services. This will help to ensure that investigations into abuse, neglect, and exploitation can be quickly and thoroughly conducted, and that services to protect the victims can be promptly provided.

The cost to Ohio due adult abuse, neglect and exploitation is enormous both in dollars and in the toll such abuse takes on the dignity of Ohio's senior citizens. The need for APS grows every year as the age of our population increases. We have the seventh highest concentration of persons 60+ in the nation. By 2020, one-fourth of Ohio's population will be over the age of sixty. During the last budget, only \$500,000 was allocated to APS.

Last year, the Ohio General Assembly allocated a one-time amount of \$10,000,000 to the APS system. This was a good start, but frankly, it is not enough, which is why we are asking for \$20,000,000. I believe you'll agree that our seniors deserve both dignity and protection.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Kelli Perk, Chair