



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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To the Members of the California State Assembly:

Assembly Bill 477 would add notaries public to the list of professionals mandated to report suspected financial abuse of elder and dependent adults.

I am not convinced that notaries, with their very limited interactions, should be placed in the position of being a mandated reporter. Others who are expressly mandated by law to report abuse typically have some level of relationship or more regular contact with the elder or dependent adult, or have some level of training in identifying abuse. For mandated reporting of financial abuse, officers and employees of financial institutions are required to report based on their access to financial information.

Notaries generally have no more than fleeting contact with individuals who request their services. If some transaction or situation should arise that gives them pause or appears suspect, notaries may already make a report without this law.

I believe that voluntary education and outreach efforts to notaries about financial abuse would better suit this class of professionals.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.