

County Executive
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and
Legislative Officer
Elisia De Bord



County of Sacramento

Board of Supervisors
Phillip R. Serna, District 1
Patrick Kennedy, District 2
Rich Desmond, District 3
Rosario Rodriguez, District 4
Patrick Hume, District 5

April 7, 2025

The Honorable Catherine Stefani
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 871 (Stefani). Mandated reporters of suspected financial abuse of an
elder or dependent adult. - Support

Dear Assembly Member Stefani:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I write to support AB 871, which expands the training required for mandated reporters working at financial institutions.

California is home to nearly 6 million seniors – more than any other state in the nation. The **state's population of adults aged 65 and older is projected to reach 25 percent of the population**, or 8.6 million Californians, by 2030. Each year, millions of older adults fall victim to telephone and internet-based fraud and financial scams. County Adult Protective Service (APS) agencies are on the front lines of combatting elder financial abuse and exploitation, of which 36 percent of APS reports are due to financial abuse.

The FBI reports that over \$3 billion was lost in elder fraud scams in 2023 nationwide. This **only covers reported crime, so the actual losses may be much higher. Since 2000, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) has received complaints about internet-facilitated crimes**, including online fraud and other cybercrimes. The IC3 provides the public with a convenient reporting system to submit information to the FBI concerning suspected internet-facilitated crime. Information gathered by the system is analyzed and used for investigative and intelligence purposes, as well as public awareness, to help combat future financial exploitation.

Financial institutions are uniquely positioned to help prevent financial loss due to offering services and products helping consumers manage their finances. Banks and other financial institutions are already required to report suspected abuse to law enforcement, but many only report to their local police department or possibly adult protective services. Reporting to local authorities is essential, but additional reporting to federal agencies can provide investigative support to local agencies. The sooner the abuse is reported to federal authorities, the more likely the stolen funds will be recovered. Reporting within the first 24-48 hours is critical to intervening and recovering stolen money, especially through cyber scams.

April 7, 2025

-2-

AB 871 requires financial institutions to provide annual training on reporting suspected financial elder abuse that includes making reports to both local APS or law enforcement and **the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)**. Expanding reports to federal authorities will improve coordination of resources, aid local law enforcement in their investigation and improve the chance to recover stolen funds.

For these reasons, Sacramento County supports AB 871. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or deborde@saccounty.gov.

Sincerely,



Elisia De Bord
Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Sacramento County Delegation
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies