



NATIONAL GUARDIANSHIP ASSOCIATION
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October 19, 2011

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

The National Guardianship Association's Board of Directors strongly supports the "Guardianship Accountability and Senior Protection Act." As practicing guardians and affiliated professionals, this board understands how critically important it is to encourage the active participation of the highest state courts in reforming adult guardianship law, and to have the support and resources at the federal level to accomplish that. Your bill, which would provide funding for state court improvements, pilot projects for background checks on prospective guardians, and for improved technology for court monitoring addresses many of our concerns. NGA, along with other members of the National Guardianship Network, has just attended a consensus conference on Standards for Guardianship Excellence. The tools provided in your bill would move us forward on many of the goals identified at the 2011 Guardianship Summit.

Guardianship is a state-based legal function that finds itself in the news frequently and unfortunately often negatively. Courts at the local level struggle to find the resources to carefully monitor individual cases and to update antiquated information systems that help track case status. At the same time the population of those who may need the support of a guardian is expanding exponentially. Those of us who are concerned about best practice in adult guardianship for the people we serve are very interested in the collaborative efforts this bill outlines between the highest state courts and the state aging networks.

These are difficult fiscal times, but the needs of persons under guardianship are great, and their right to ethical and appropriate support should be paramount. The NGA is an active member of the National Guardianship Network, and will continue to strive toward excellence in guardianship which is our association's mission. We believe this legislation will help all involved in guardianship move toward that mission. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

FOR THE BOARD

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia R. Nack".

Julia R. Nack, NMG
NGA President

JN:peh