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# THOMAS WEATHERSTON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 62<sup>ND</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release  
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## Statement on Rep. Weatherston being named to AG Schimel's Task Force on Elder Abuse

(Madison WI.) “As Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care, I am proud to announce that I have been appointed to Attorney General Brad Schimel’s Task Force on Elder Abuse”, said Representative Weatherston.

“Over the next two decades, Wisconsin’s 65 and older population will increase by 72% and one in nine seniors have reported being abused, neglected or exploited in the past twelve months”, according to AG Schimel.

- By 2040, 18 counties in Wisconsin are projected to have at least 33% of their total population made up of individuals ages 65 and older. Three of these counties are estimated to reach 40%.
- Elder abuse is vastly underreported; only one in 44 cases of financial abuse is ever reported.
- Abused seniors are three times more likely to die than those who had not been abused and elder abuse victims are four times more likely to go into a nursing home.
- Almost one in ten financial abuse victims will turn to Medicaid as a direct result of their own monies being stolen from them.
- Financial abuse by itself costs older Americans more than \$2.6 billion dollars annually.
- The direct medical costs of injuries are estimated to contribute more than \$5.3 billion to the nation’s annual health expenditures.

“I look forward to serving on this Elder Abuse Task Force to protect some of the most vulnerable in our great state of Wisconsin”, said Rep. Weatherston.