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For Immediate Release

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Crime Victims in Long-Term Care Facilities: "We Can All Respond To Crime"

This February Washington State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) launched a first-of-its kind initiative, "We Can All Respond to Crime" to promote ease of access to the Crime Victim Advocacy network for individuals living in long-term care facilities. This new initiative provides both a website (www.waombudsman.org/education/crime-victim-support/) full of resources and is backed with nearly 300 volunteer and staff Ombudsmen who have been trained to provide the support residents need.

"We know that elder abuse, and in particular financial exploitation, is underreported. Even when it is reported the person living in a care facility is often not offered any type of support to help them get through the trauma and find restitution. Our goal is to fill the information gap by providing residents and their families with hope and access to professionals right there in their own communities"

-Patricia Hunter, State LTC Ombuds.

Crime victim services can address legal issues, crisis intervention, compensation, emergency financial assistance, trauma counseling and more. Neil Degerstedt, SW Regional LTC Ombuds underlined the importance of the program saying "All long-term care residents, who have experienced past or present trauma from incidents of abuse, neglect, or financial theft can benefit from support, resources, and guidance provided in confidence by our trained volunteers."

For more information visit www.waombudsman.org or call us at 1.800.562.6028

All calls are confidential.

About the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

The Washington State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) is a statewide advocacy group organized and authorized by federal and state law to promote and protect the rights of individuals living in long-term care facilities.

About Victims of Crime Assistance

The initiative "We Can All Respond to Crime" is funded by a grant awarded from the Washington State Department of Commerce Victims of Crime Assistance Program (VOCA).