

For Immediate Release  
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## Assemblymembers Yamada and Ammiano Host First Ever Joint Hearing of the Aging & Long-Term Care and Public Safety Committees

*From financial scams to surveillance cams: A spotlight on elder and adult abuse*

**SACRAMENTO, CA** – Assemblymember Mariko Yamada (D – Davis), Chair of the Assembly Committee on Aging & Long-Term Care and Assemblymember Tom Ammiano (D – San Francisco), Chair of the Assembly Committee on Public Safety, will be uniting in a first of its kind joint hearing to discuss solutions to the growing number of elder and adult abuse cases in California.

“By 2020, California will be home to the largest population of older adults in the nation--6.5 million people over the age of 65. Unprecedented growth in our senior community also increases the potential for crimes against our elders,” said Assemblymember Yamada. “I am proud to be working with Assemblymember Ammiano and the public safety community to put a spotlight on protecting California’s elders and prosecuting those who harm them”.

Members of the law enforcement community and senior rights advocates will come together to discuss the mitigation of elder and dependent care abuse in California. The hearing will focus on successful and innovative approaches to dependent adult abuse prosecution.

"Elder abuse is not a subject anyone wants to talk about and the biggest challenge is underreporting because people are embarrassed and fearful. This joint hearing with Assemblymember Yamada is an opportunity to talk openly about how best to work together to ensure that our seniors get the help and assistance that they need," said Assemblymember Ammiano.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011**  
**9:30AM – 12:00PM**

**California State Capitol**  
**Room 126**

Assemblymember Mariko Yamada (D – Davis)  
Assemblymember Tom Ammiano (D – San Francisco)  
Patricia McGinnis, Executive Director California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform  
Paul Greenwood, District Attorney, San Diego County office of the District Attorney  
Joe Rodriguez, Statewide Long-Term Care Ombudsman  
Wendy Aquin, Division Director, Adult Services and Assistance Programs, County of Orange  
Dave Helmsin, California Association of Health Facilities.  
Tricia Palermo, Executive Director, The Stratford at Countrywood  
Mark Zahner, Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse  
Tristan Svare, San Bernardino County District Attorney  
Anne Brewer, Senior Consultant with the California Commission on Peace Officer’s Standards and Training  
Lisa Nerenberg, MSW, MPH, Chairperson, The California Elder Justice Workgroup, and Author, Elder Abuse Prevention: Emerging Trends and Promising Strategies (Springer, 2008)

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