

Testimony Supporting Passage of SB 175

My name is Ria Rochvarg, and I have been a Maryland attorney for over 29 years and I primarily practice in the area of Guardianship Law. I am very active in Guardianship reform. I lecture on Guardianship Law to attorneys and judges in Maryland and I have written about Guardianship Law.

I fully support the passage of SB 175. In my many years of practice, I have seen the number of vulnerable adults who are the victims of financial abuse and/or exploitation increase exponentially. I have worked with Adult Protective Service divisions around the state of Maryland regarding these vulnerable adults. As the law is currently written, it is very difficult, if not impossible for APS to get the necessary information to assist these vulnerable adults. In most cases, a guardianship case has to be filed and an order has to be signed by a judge appointing a Temporary Guardian of the Property. Far too often, the assets are already gone.

Passing SB 175 will allow APS the much needed authority to fully investigate the financial abuse and/or exploitation of vulnerable adults. I am requesting that you vote favorably and pass SB 175.

