



WEAR PURPLE THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 15 – Garrett County Community Action Committee Inc. employees are showing their support for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) by wearing purple. They ask that local residents also wear purple, a color nationally recognized to represent elder abuse awareness, this Sunday, June 15, for WEAAD. This year's theme is "One Person, One Action, One Nation United Against Elder Abuse." According to the Garrett County Area Agency on Aging, every day 10,000 people turn 65 in the U.S. alone. "That trend is going to continue for nearly the next 20 years," said a spokesperson. "Our demographics are shifting, and we will soon have more elder people in the U.S. than ever before. At the same time that the population is growing, we know that a startling number of elders face abusive

conditions. Every year an estimated 5 million, or one in 10, older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and that's only part of the picture. Experts believe that for every case of elder abuse or neglect reported, as many as 23.5 cases go unreported." WEAAD serves as a call to action for individuals, organizations, and communities to raise awareness about abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elders. The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations launched the first WEAAD on June 15, 2006. WEAAD is in support of the UN's International Plan of Action acknowledging the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue.