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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Lt. Governor Kinder Recognizes World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

**JEFFERSON CITY** – Lt. Governor Peter Kinder today reminded Missourians that Monday, June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

“Elder abuse is a tragic crime that affects our most vulnerable citizens,” Lt. Governor Kinder said. “Our state has made great strides in helping to protect Missouri seniors, but we must continue our efforts in educating more Missourians on how to spot the signs of elder abuse.”

Lt. Governor Kinder serves as Missouri’s Official Senior Advocate.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is recognized each year on June 15. As part of those efforts, Lt. Governor Kinder is asking Missourians to wear purple today to show their support in the global fight against elder abuse.

Each year, one of the most reported signs of elder abuse is financial exploitation. Financial exploitation occurs when someone illegally uses another person’s money or property for profit or gain. Often, a senior or disabled adult is tricked or coerced into handing over money to a son, daughter, relative or even a stranger. Exploitation of more than \$50 is considered a felony.

In 2008, Lt. Governor Kinder and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services unveiled the MOSAFE DVD project. This DVD portrays real-life cases of financial exploitation to help educate more Missourians about the crime. The DVD is hosted by award winning actress, and native Missourian, Doris Roberts from the hit television show *Everybody Loves Raymond*.

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For more information on Project MOSAFE, visit <http://www.dhss.mo.gov/MOSAFE>.

Elderly and disabled Missourians also often fall prey to illegal home repair scams, foreign lotteries and travel scams. Lt. Governor Kinder urges Missourians to report these crimes to the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's office at, 1-800-392-8222.

Missourians who have information about, or ever witness elder abuse should call the state's Elderly Abuse and Neglect Hotline at, 1-800-392-0210.

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