



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE**

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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

August 11, 2011

The Honorable Joe Simitian
California State Senate
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 33** (Simitian) - As amended on 06/15/11 - **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Simitian:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 33, which deletes the January 1, 2013 repeal date on the Financial Elder Abuse Reporting Act of 2005. This action would extend mandated reporting requirements to officers and employees of financial institutions.

The Financial Elder Abuse Reporting Act of 2005, SB 1018 enacted in 2007, provided additional protections for seniors and dependent adults by requiring financial institutions to report known or suspected abuse to county adult protective services agencies or law enforcement authorities. Since the implementation of SB 1018 there has been an increase in the number of reported or suspected cases of financial elder abuse. Even so, many seniors and dependent adults continue to be at increased risk of falling victim to financial abuse and exploitation. Financial service providers are often in the best position to identify such abuse and communicate these instances to the proper authorities.

Allowing the provisions of SB 1018 to sunset would be a detriment the seniors and dependent adults of this state. SB 33 would ensure that as a state we remain vigilant in our responsibility to protect our most vulnerable citizens.

For these reasons, the San Bernardino County joins with the California State Association of Counties in supporting SB 33. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, the County's Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821.

Sincerely,

JOSIE GONZALES, Chair
Board of Supervisors