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To: [Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov](mailto:Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov)  
Date: 3/10/2016 2:03:00 PM  
Subject: Happy Birthday Justice in Aging

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## Happy Birthday Justice in Aging!

Wednesday, March 2, we celebrated one year as [Justice in Aging](#). Thank you for embracing our name change and helping us to expand the impact of our work! Over the [last year](#) we've put our new name and tagline – Fighting Senior Poverty Through Law – into practice with [more webinars and trainings](#), [increased advocacy](#), and [new legal victories](#). We also [took time to celebrate](#) accomplishments of the past and [our shared visions](#) for a future of Justice in Aging.

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## Advocacy Starts at Home: Special Report on the Needs of Older Adults and Family Caregivers

Since its release last month, more than 1,300 people have accessed our [Special Report on low-income older adults and family caregivers](#), and [more than 500 people watched the video](#) telling the story of Sadie and Margaret and their struggle to keep Sadie aging at home, safely and with dignity. The response from

partners and advocates has been tremendous. We're reaching people and organizations we've never reached before, which can only amplify all of our work. A special thank you to those partners who worked so hard to help us promote this package beyond our network of advocates: AARP and Lynn Friss Feinberg, Family Caregiver Alliance, and the American Society on Aging.

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## Bay Area Radio Show Focuses on Senior Poverty

On February 17, the radio talk show Your Call with Rose Aguilar on KALW, a Bay Area NPR affiliate, welcomed Justice in Aging attorney Amber Cutler on her show to talk about senior poverty, and what retirement means in a time of declining pensions and savings, benefit cuts, rising inequality, and higher health care, food, and housing costs. Amber used the opportunity to talk about some of our key priority areas— including the [SSI Restoration Act](#) and our work with the [Californians for SSI Coalition](#) —that will preserve and strengthen the safety net benefits that low-income older Americans rely on. [Listen to the show here.](#)

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## New: Balance Billing Toolkit and Webinar

Balance billing is an illegal practice that harms growing numbers of low-income seniors. We have developed a series of practical resources advocates can use to ensure that their clients are protected. Balance billing occurs when doctors, hospitals, or other providers charge beneficiaries with both Medicaid and Medicare for Medicare co-pays, co-insurance, or deductibles. Balance billing is prohibited under federal law, yet it is a common practice among some providers. Last month [we released a toolkit](#) of five model letters that advocates can use when their low income clients face illegal balance billing for Medicare co-pays, co-insurance or, deductibles. Accompanying the letters is a webinar that explains balance billing protections for dual eligibles (people with both Medicare and Medicaid) and for people who are Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs). [Access all the materials here.](#)

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## Recognizing and Remediating Elder Financial Abuse in Medicaid Denials

Financial exploitation can devastate low-income older adults who live in poverty and rely on Medicaid, SSI, and other safety net programs to survive. A few weeks ago, Justice in Aging Directing Attorney for the Health Team, Jennifer Goldberg, teamed up with [Pro Seniors Inc.](#), and the [National Consumer Law Center](#), to present a webinar sponsored by the [National Legal Resource Center](#) on how to identify and combat elder financial abuse in public benefits cases. The topic attracted tremendous interest, with more than 1200 people attending. [Access the slides and watch the webinar here.](#)

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## Take a Stand Against Senior Poverty Event

In case you missed the invite, on the evening of April 7, 2016, we'll gather in San Francisco to celebrate two outstanding leaders whose work to improve the lives of low-income older adults in California inspires us. Join us as we honor CA Assemblymember Tony Thurmond with an Impact Award and Anne Hinton,

former Executive Director of the San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services with the Paul Nathanson Distinguished Advocate Award. [Tickets and sponsorships available here.](#)

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**Connect with Us**

Justice In Aging  
1444 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

1330 Broadway, Suite 525  
Oakland, CA 94612

3660 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 718  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

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