

# Bills To Protect Elderly Cosponsored By Lundine

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Rep. Stanley N. Lundine has cosponsored a package of six new pieces of legislation in the House of Representatives designed to protect older Americans from crime and to prevent crimes against the elderly.

Lundine said the bills are a direct result of investigations by the House Select Committee on Aging into victimization of the elderly. He was appointed to that com-

mittee earlier this year.

"I have joined with the authors of this group of bills in the realization that the fear of crime is the most intimidating and universal facet of an older person's life," Lundine said. "It inhibits his or her travel, the contacts with friends and family, the enjoyment of life which we all seek and deserve."

"Clearly," he continued, "America has a duty to protect all of its citizens, but that duty should become an ironclad responsibility with our older, more vulnerable citizens."

Three of the six pieces of legislation would:

- provide grants for states to make compensation payments to elderly people suffering loss of property as a result of crimes;

- require the National Institute of Mental Health to conduct a study of crimes against the elderly by juveniles, toward future prevention of such crimes;

- establish a Central Office of Criminal Justice within the Department of Justice to compile and analyze crimes against the elderly toward formulation of prevention programs.

The other three pieces of legislation would amend different legislation in order to provide assistance and funding for installation of security and anti-burglary devices and for structural alterations to homes of the elderly to prevent unlawful entry.