



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Tennessee share a desire to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls and injuries among older adults; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, more than 27,000 older Americans died as a result of falls, which is around 74 adults every day; and

WHEREAS, older adult falls are increasing and, sadly, often herald the end of independence; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 alone, 28.7% of Americans aged 65 and older fell, resulting in 29 million falls causing seven million injuries and costing an estimated \$31 billion in annual Medicare costs; and

WHEREAS, with more than 10,000 older Americans turning 65 each day, the number of fall-related injuries and deaths is expected to surge, resulting in cost increases unless preventive measures are taken; and

WHEREAS, older adults and disabled individuals can prevent falls by talking to their doctor to evaluate their fall risk, reviewing all medications that may cause loss of balance, engaging in strength and balance exercises, undergoing a routine vision check, and making their homes safer; and

WHEREAS, falls are a growing public health issue and fall prevention awareness promotes evidence-based prevention programs and strategies to reduce the staggering number of falls deaths in older adults each year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 22, 2017 as

Fall Prevention Awareness Day

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this eighteenth day of August, 2017.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Vargitt

Secretary of State