



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

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

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, nearly 650 older Tennesseans died as a result of falls, which is nearly two people a day; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, over 61,000 older Tennesseans visited emergency departments as a result of falls, which is 168 people a day.

**WHEREAS**, the financial burden on older adults as a result of falls in Tennessee is \$885 million; 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 Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 21-25, 2020 as

*Fall Prevention Awareness Week*

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 fifth day of August, 2020.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Julie Hargrett*

Secretary of State