



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 traumatic brain injuries among older adults; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's population of senior adults, ages 65 and over, will nearly double between 2010 and 2030; and

WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of death from unintentional injuries among older adults who represent 13% of the state's population but make up 79% of all individuals who died in 2010 from a fall; and

WHEREAS, an estimated \$978 million in hospital charges were associated with falls in Tennessee in 2010, and 55% of all charges were associated with treatment of senior adults ages 65 and over; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that almost three-fourths of all Tennesseans who were hospitalized for a fall-related incident in 2010 were age 65 and over; and

WHEREAS, older adults value their independence, and a fall can significantly limit their ability to remain self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS, the causes of falls include lack of lower extremity strength, reactions to medications, reduced vision, chronic health problems and unsafe home conditions; and

WHEREAS, injuries from falls are largely a preventable community health problem; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based programs show promise in reducing falls and facilitating cost-effective interventions;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 22, 2012 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 third day of October, 2012.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bill Haslam".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joe Vignetti".

Secretary of State