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 often adversely affect the duration of independent living; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, over 800 older Tennesseans died because of falls, which is more than 2 people per day; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, over 53,000 older Tennesseans visited emergency departments because of injuries caused by falling, which is 145 people a day; 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, unless preventive measures are taken; and

WHEREAS, preventative measures such as engaging in strength and balance exercise, undergoing routine vision checks, and installing appropriate safety equipment at home can make a significant difference; and

WHEREAS, 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 19-23, 2022 as

Fall Prevention Awareness Week

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