



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, falls are a main cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries in the senior population and often become a source of fear in the elderly and disabled; and

WHEREAS, the death rates from falls among older men and women have risen sharply over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, one in three adults aged 65 and older fall each year, but less than half talk to their health care providers about it; and

WHEREAS, Men are more likely than women to die from a fall; the fall death rate is approximately 40% higher for men than for women; and

WHEREAS, falls are often serious and can be permanent, robbing an older adult of independence and reducing his or her quality of life; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, about 25,500 older adults died from unintentional fall injuries; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, emergency departments treated 2.5 million non-fatal fall injuries among older adults, resulting in hospitalization for more than 734,000 of these patients; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the direct medical cost of falls, adjusted for inflation, was \$34 billion; and

WHEREAS, many falls are preventable by starting a good balance and exercise program, getting a fall risk assessment, reviewing medications with a healthcare provider, getting vision and hearing checked, keeping one's home safe, and talking to family members; and

WHEREAS, older adults and the disabled are not alone in their efforts to reduce fall risk - Healthcare professionals, family members, friends, and community resource agencies can provide the education and support needed to safely live life to the fullest;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2015 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 twenty-fourth day of August, 2015.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Ju Vazirani

Secretary of State