



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, almost 18 percent of Florida residents are older adults (65 years of age or older); and

WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries among Florida's older adult population and result in significant physical, personal, social, and economic burden; and

WHEREAS, the greatest desire of many Florida's older adult residents is to have the opportunity to live in the independence, safety, security, comfort, and privacy of their home; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that annually there are more than 160,000 hospital-treated injuries from falls among Floridians 65 and older, with medical charges exceeding \$2.9 billion; and

WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of injury-related deaths, hospitalizations, emergency department visits, and extended health care facility accident-related admissions among Floridians 65 and older; and

WHEREAS, falling and the fear of falling can lead to depression, loss of mobility and loss of functional independence; and

WHEREAS, falls prevention education is a key first step to increasing public awareness regarding older adult falls prevention and home safety; and

WHEREAS, implementing older adult falls prevention strategies helps reduce the stresses associated with providing caregiver services; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the Florida Department of Health/Injury Prevention Section, falls prevention community stakeholders and state Area Agencies on Aging, in partnership with Florida communities and residents, are working to increase awareness of this issue and encourage Florida residents to take steps to protect those who are at risk of falling;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing September 23, 2015, as *Falls Prevention Awareness Day*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 23rd day of September, in the year two thousand fifteen.


Governor