



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

**FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY**

**WHEREAS**, almost 19 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 of 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 200,000 hospital-treated injuries from falls among Floridians 65 and older, with medical charges exceeding \$3.3 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**, 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 22, 2016, 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 21st day of September, in the year two thousand sixteen.

  
Governor