

**FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY IN FLORIDA**

**WHEREAS, more than 19 percent of Florida's population is age 65 and older; and**

**WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries among people age 65 and older in Florida, resulting in 2,817 deaths in 2017, 54,973 non-fatal hospitalizations in 2017, and 178,133 non-fatal emergency department visits in 2017; and**

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

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

**WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the Florida Department of Health, local fall prevention coalitions, and 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 my support to all observing September 22, 2018, as *Falls Prevention Awareness Day in Florida*.**



**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 eighteen.**

  
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Governor