



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, Florida's 5.5 million elders are valued members of society and deserve to lead longer, healthier, and more productive lives; and

WHEREAS, the Falls Free® State Coalitions on Falls Prevention Workgroup requested observance of a National Falls Prevention Awareness Day on the first day of fall in 2008 and the National Advocacy Workgroup gained bipartisan sponsorship, the U.S. Senate now annually approves a resolution to bring awareness to the impact of falls-related injuries on older adults; and

WHEREAS, evidence suggests that many falls could be prevented through effective patient-doctor communication, strength and balance exercises, and home safety; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and improving health, wellness, and falls prevention programs can help elders to remain safe and fit; and

WHEREAS, many people who fall, even if not injured, become afraid of falling, reducing their everyday activities, which leads to being less active and weaker, and more at risk of falling; and

WHEREAS, as our state and nation continue to face the challenges of COVID-19, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs has launched new initiatives to lessen the impact of social isolation and loneliness on aging adults and their caregivers, and to foster more meaningful connections between seniors and their families; and

WHEREAS, Falls Prevention Awareness Week in Florida is an opportunity for the Department of Elder Affairs, Department of Health, Area Agencies on Aging, county health departments, area health education centers, senior centers, and local falls prevention coalitions, in partnership with local communities and health care providers, to work together to increase awareness about the availability and the benefits of falls prevention programs, and to encourage collaboration to prevent injuries and deaths caused by falls.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing September 21-25, 2020, as *Falls Prevention Awareness Week 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 twenty.



Governor