



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, approximately 15.5 percent of North Carolina citizens are 65 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one fourth of people age 65 and older will fall each year; and

WHEREAS, according to the North Carolina Injury and Violence Prevention Branch of the North Carolina Division of Public Health, falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries among our citizens age 65 and older, causing 986 deaths in 2015; 17,153 hospitalizations in 2016; and 80,710 emergency department visits in 2016; and

WHEREAS, falls are the most common cause of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) among North Carolinians 65 and older, with falls accounting for 59.1% of fatal TBI among older adults; and

WHEREAS, older adults who fall once are two to three times more likely to fall again; falls can lead to depression, loss of mobility, and loss of functional independence; and

WHEREAS, the average hospitalization cost of an unintentional fall for a North Carolina resident age 65 or older was \$42,926.85 in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the financial toll of older adult falls is expected to increase as the population ages; this cost may reach \$67.7 billion nationally by 2020; and

WHEREAS, injuries from falls are largely preventable community health problems; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based programs reduce falls by implementing cost-effective strategies, such as exercise for balance and strength, medication management, vision improvement, removal of home hazards, and fall prevention education; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Falls Prevention Coalition is working to increase awareness of this issue, promote multidisciplinary strategies to prevent falls, and encourage citizens to take steps to protect those who are at increased risk of falling;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 18 – 23, 2017, as “**FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this ninth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.