



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK IN FLORIDA

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

WHEREAS, one out of every five falls causes a serious injury such as broken bones or a head injury; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature continue to prioritize support for the state's 6.1 million older adults who comprise 28 percent of the state's population; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, over 4,000 older adults in Florida were fatally injured by falls and many older adults required hospitalization due to falls; and

WHEREAS, falls can lead to loss of mobility, depression, loss of functional independence, and isolation; and

WHEREAS, falls prevention programs can help save lives, save money, and are effective in helping older adults stay independent; and

WHEREAS, through the Department of Elder Affairs, Florida's aging network is able to offer evidence-based programs to help reduce falls by utilizing cost-effective strategies, such as exercise programs to improve balance and strength, medication management, vision improvement, reduction of home hazards, and fall prevention education; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Elder Affairs, the Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers, county health departments, area health education centers, and Florida's Falls Prevention Coalition are 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 an increased risk of falling; and

WHEREAS, Falls Prevention Awareness Week is an opportunity to engage Floridians in efforts to improve senior health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing September 18-22, 2023, 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 18th day of September, in the year two thousand twenty-three.



Governor