

WHEREAS; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), falls are the leading cause of injury-related death among older adults in the United States, with more than one in four adults aged 65 and older experiencing a fall each year, including many Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; falls in Wisconsin cost an estimated \$1 billion a year, in addition to the emotional and physical costs to older adults, their families, and their caregivers; and

WHEREAS; according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), emergency medical services providers responded to over 130,000 older adult falls across the state in 2022, making falls the top injury response; and

WHEREAS; in response to a fear of falling, older adults may limit their activities and social engagements, which can lead to physical decline, depression, social isolation, and feelings of helplessness; and

WHEREAS; together with DHS, the statewide Falls Free® Wisconsin Coalition, local fall prevention coalitions, aging offices and aging and disability resource centers, community-based organizations, health systems, and public safety organizations, strive to raise awareness of and support falls prevention initiatives, including evidence-based programs like Stepping On; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to the well-being of older adults and their caregivers by encouraging fall prevention efforts statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim September 2024 as

## **FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 29th day of August 2024.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State