

WHEREAS; falls are the leading cause of injury-related death among older adults in the United States, with more than a quarter of adults aged 65 and older falling at least once a year; 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 140,000 older adult falls across the state in 2024, making falls the top injury response; and

WHEREAS; conditions including bodily weakness, difficulty walking and balancing, vision problems, foot pain, and motion-affecting medication can all increase the likelihood of a fall, and at-risk older adults should take care to remove potential hazards that may contribute to increased falls;

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

WHEREAS; while falls are often viewed as an unavoidable part of aging, research indicates that falls are not inevitable, and people at any age can learn and carry out effective strategies to reduce their fall risk, increase physical activity and mobility, and improve overall physical and mental wellness; and

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

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to the well-being of older Wisconsinites and recognizes the dedicated caregivers, individuals, and organizations dedicated to fall prevention and increasing older adults’ ability to thrive;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 2026 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 26th day of August 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State