

WHEREAS; one in every four Wisconsinites aged 65 and older fall each year, and one fall doubles an older adult's chances of falling again; and

WHEREAS; every 11 seconds, an older adult is treated in an emergency room for fall injuries, and every 19 minutes, an older adult dies from a fall; and

WHEREAS; the annual cost of falls in Wisconsin exceeds one billion dollars, in addition to the emotional and physical costs to older adults, their families, and their caregivers; and

WHEREAS; a growing number of older adults fear falling and, as a result, limit their activities and social engagements leading to physical decline, depression, social isolation, and feelings of helplessness, which the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated; and

WHEREAS; among other community-based programs, Wisconsin's Falls Prevention Initiative, Help Yourself to Better Health campaign, and Stepping On program strive to raise awareness of fall prevention strategies and are supported by numerous national, state, and local partners; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to assisting our aging and older adults in preventing falls and managing their health by supporting them and those who care for them;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim September 2020 as

## **FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

and September 22, 2020, as

## **FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS**

DAY 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State