

WHEREAS; more than 40,000 people aged 65 and older went to the emergency room due to an unintentional fall injury in 2019, and more than 1,670 people died as a result of these injuries, making Wisconsin the state with the highest rate of deadly falls in the country for this age group; 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; alongside falls prevention coalitions, community-based organizations, healthcare providers, public safety professionals, and others, Wisconsin's statewide Falls Prevention Initiative strives to raise awareness of and support fall prevention strategies, including through evidence-based programs like Stepping On; 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 2021 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 27th day of August 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State