

WHEREAS; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, falls are the leading cause of injury and injury death among older adults in the United States, with one in four adults aged 65 and older experiencing a fall each year; and

WHEREAS; in 2020 alone, more than 40,000 Wisconsin residents aged 65 and older went to the emergency room due to an unintentional fall injury, and more than 1,780 people died as a result of fall injuries; 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; a growing number of older adults fear falling and, as a result, may limit their activities and social engagements, which can lead to physical decline, depression, social isolation, and feelings of helplessness, all of which have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS; alongside local falls prevention coalitions, aging offices and Aging and Disability Resource Centers, community-based organizations, healthcare providers, public safety professionals, and others, the statewide Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition strives to raise awareness of and support falls prevention initiatives, including evidence-based programs like Stepping On; and

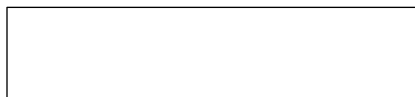
WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to the well-being of aging and older adults in our state, as well as their caregivers, by encouraging falls prevention efforts statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim September 2022 as

## **FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

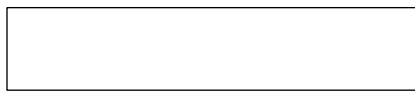
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

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 19<sup>th</sup> day of August 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State