



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**PROCLAMATION**

**FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK**

**September 20-24, 2021**

*WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is committed to protecting and promoting the health and wellbeing of all commonwealth citizens; and*

*WHEREAS, twenty-one percent of the commonwealth's population is sixty-five years of age and older, and one-fourth of this age group suffers from falling accidents each year, resulting in serious injury such as broken bones or head injury; and*

*WHEREAS, falling and the fear of falling can lead to depression, hopelessness, loss of mobility, and loss of functional independence; and*

*WHEREAS, according to the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council and the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research, falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries among people aged sixty-five years of age and older, accounting for 69.2% of fatal traumatic brain injuries, 1,781 deaths and 59,226 hospitalizations in 2019; and*

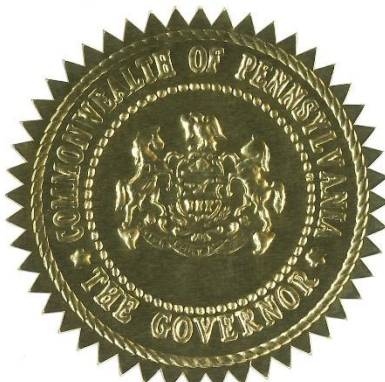
*WHEREAS, falls prevention is a public health priority, especially with its potential to reduce traumatic injuries amongst the sixty-five years of age and older population; and*

*WHEREAS, evidence-based programs reduce falls by utilizing cost-effective strategies, such as exercise programs to improve balance and strength, medication management, vision improvement, reduction of home hazards, and fall prevention education; and*

*WHEREAS, the average hospitalization charge for falls among older adults was \$69,180 in 2019, and the financial toll for older adult falls is expected to increase as the population ages and may reach \$101 billion nationally by 2030; and*

*WHEREAS, falls prevention strategies can positively impact the quality of life of Pennsylvania's older adults, helping them remain healthy, active, and independent.*

*THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim September 20-24, 2021, as FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK in Pennsylvania and encourage citizens across the commonwealth to recognize the importance of falls prevention in Pennsylvania as a priority for public health.*



*GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this thirty-first day of August two thousand twenty-one, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-sixth.*

*Tom Wolf*  
**TOM WOLF**  
Governor