

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of injury-related hospitalization and death among Ohioans aged 65 and older and are largely preventable – they are not a normal part of aging. An older adult falls every two and one-half minutes on average in Ohio, resulting in three deaths each day, two hospitalizations each hour, and an emergency department visit every eight minutes; and

WHEREAS, older adults account for a disproportionate share of fall-related injuries. Approximately 15 percent of Ohio citizens are age 65 or older, yet this group accounts for more than 84 percent of fatal falls. The Ohio Department of Health reports that the number of fatal falls among these older Ohioans increased more than 173 percent from 2000 to 2013; and

WHEREAS, the total estimated cost of fatal falls (medical costs, work loss and decreased quality of life) is \$677 million annually in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, falling, and the fear of falling, can lead to debilitating consequences such as depression and hopelessness, loss of mobility and loss of functional independence; and

WHEREAS, the causes of falls vary with contributing factors including lack of strength in the lower extremities, the use of four or more medications, reduced vision, chronic health problems, and unsafe conditions in the home; and

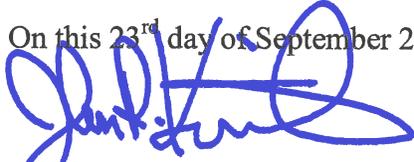
WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Aging through the STEADY U initiative are helping individuals, families, communities, health care providers and businesses reduce our elder's risk for falls, while the Ohio Older Adults Falls Prevention Coalition, an action group of the Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership, is working to increase awareness of this issue and promote evidence-based strategies and interventions at the state and local levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, John R. Kasich and Mary Taylor, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize September 23, 2015 as

OHIO FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY

and encourage all Ohioans to *Take a Stand to Prevent Falls* and protect themselves and those who are at increased risk of falling, helping them to remain healthy, active and independent and improving their quality of life.

On this 23rd day of September 2015;


John R. Kasich
Governor


Mary Taylor
Lieutenant Governor

