

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, it is estimated 14 percent of South Carolinians are 65 years of age or older and that one of every three older adults will fall each year; and

WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of injuries, injury deaths, and hospital admissions for trauma among older South Carolinians, accounting for nearly 7,000 hospitalizations and 26,000 emergency department visits in one year; and

WHEREAS, the number of falls is expected to continue to increase due to the growing number of older adults, especially the 85 and older age group, which is the fastest growing segment of the population and the most vulnerable to falls; and

WHEREAS, during the 2012 observance of Falls Prevention Awareness Day, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging, and partner organizations will raise awareness of the "Falls Among Older Adults" section of the South Carolina Injury Prevention Plan 2010-2015 and coordinate the evidence-based Arthritis Foundation Walk With Ease program at sites across the state to keep older adults active as a measure to help reduce the risk of falling.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 22, 2012, as

FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about the risks for falls and strategies to prevent them.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA