

## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths in Iowa and resulted in over 800 deaths in 2014.
- WHEREAS,** Falls among older adults are a significant problem and pose a major threat to health and independence resulting in high personal and economic direct costs; and
- WHEREAS,** Among Iowa's older citizens, falls are the leading cause of hospitalization and death and the rate of deaths is ten times greater for those over 65 than the rate of all ages combined; and
- WHEREAS,** The combined direct costs of fall-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits in Iowa are \$237 million annually; and
- WHEREAS,** Falls are a contributing factor for nursing home placements, which may end an older citizen's ability to live independently; and
- WHEREAS,** Falls among older adults occur in all socioeconomic and cultural groups with nearly one-third of older adults experiencing a fall; and
- WHEREAS,** The fastest growing segment of the Iowa population is among persons over 65; and
- WHEREAS,** Ensuring that health care providers screen for fall risk among older adults and provide resource material to older adults, their families and caregivers are steps that can help reduce the number of injuries due to falls; and
- WHEREAS,** Promoting the use of evidence-based classes to improve strength and balance has been shown to reduce fall risk among older adults; and
- WHEREAS,** The Iowa Department on Aging and the Iowa Department of Public Health have fostered partnerships across the aging network to increase the number of evidence-based programs available in Iowa communities to prevent falls:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Terry E. Branstad, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim September 22, 2016 as

### FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERE-  
UNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED  
THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO  
BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS  
\_\_\_\_ DAY OF SEPTEMBER IN THE YEAR OF  
OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
TERRY E. BRANSTAD  
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

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PAUL D. PATE  
SECRETARY OF STATE