

STATE OF OHIO
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. An older adult falls in Ohio every 2.5 minutes on average, 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 14 percent of Ohio citizens are age 65 or older, yet this group accounts for more than 80 percent of fatal falls. The Ohio Department of Health reports that fatal fall rates among these older Ohioans increased more than 150 percent from 2000 to 2010; and

WHEREAS, the total estimated cost of fatal falls (medical costs, work loss and decreased quality of life) is \$646 million annually in Ohio, while non-fatal, hospital-admitted falls among older adults cost more than \$4.2 billion annually; 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 home conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Aging are working to reduce the incidence of 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 policy interventions at the state and local level.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize September 22, 2012 as

**OHIO FALLS PREVENTION
AWARENESS DAY**

throughout Ohio and encourage all Ohioans to take steps to protect those who are at increased risk of falling.

On this 22nd day of September, 2012;



John R. Kasich
Governor

