



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, almost 18 percent of Florida residents are 65 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, the single greatest desire for many of Florida's elder residents is to have the opportunity to "Age in Place" in the independence, safety, security, comfort and privacy of their own home; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that annually there are more than 150,000 hospital-treated falls injuries among Floridians 65 and older, with medical charges exceeding \$2.5 billion; and

WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of injury-related deaths, hospitalizations, emergency department visits, and extended health care facility accident-related admissions among Floridians 65 and older; and

WHEREAS, among Floridians 65 and older, falls account for more than 75 percent of all fractures treated and released from emergency departments; and

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

WHEREAS, injuries from falls are a preventable community health problem; and

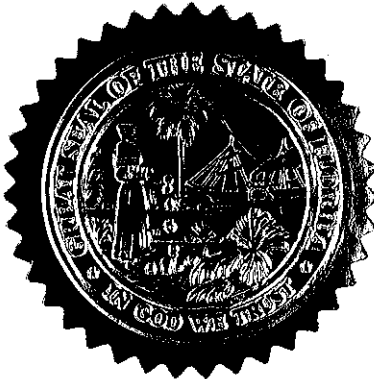
WHEREAS, falls prevention education is a key first step to increasing public awareness regarding elder falls prevention and home safety; and

WHEREAS, cost-effective home modification and community strategies are available to improve safety and lessen the likelihood of falls and the debilitating injuries that can result; and

WHEREAS, implementing elder falls prevention strategies is an effective tool for reducing the stresses associated with providing caregiver services; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs/Communities for a Lifetime, the Florida Department of Health/Office of Injury Prevention, and state Area Agencies on Aging, in partnership with Florida communities and residents, are working to increase awareness of this issue and encourage Florida residents to take steps to protect those who are at risk of falling;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing September 23, 2010 as *Falls Prevention Awareness Day*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 20th day of August in the year two thousand ten.

Handwritten signature of Charlie Crist in black ink.

Governor