
State of Iowa
Executive Department

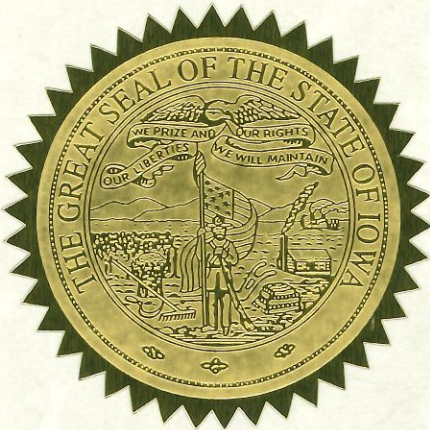
IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

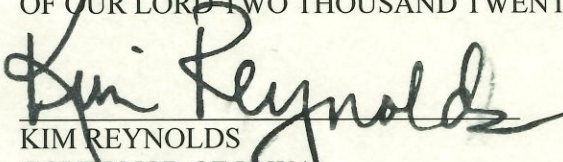
- WHEREAS,** it is estimated that 17.5 percent of Iowa citizens are 65 years of age or older; and
- WHEREAS,** according to Iowa Department of Public Health, falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries among people 65 and older in Iowa, leading to 649 deaths in 2020; 6,969 hospitalizations in 2020; and 31,917 emergency department visits in 2020; and
- WHEREAS,** falls are the most common cause of traumatic brain injuries among Iowa citizens 65 years of age and older, with falls accounting for 70 percent of fatal traumatic brain injuries among older adults; and
- WHEREAS,** falls can lead to depression, loss of mobility, and loss of functional independence; and
- WHEREAS,** the average hospitalization charge for an unintentional fall among Iowa residents ages 65 and older was more than \$342 million in 2020; and
- WHEREAS,** evidence-based programs reduce falls by utilizing cost-effective strategies, such as exercise programs to improve balance and strength, medication management, vision improvement, reduction of home hazards, and fall prevention education; and
- WHEREAS,** the Iowa Falls Prevention Coalition is working to increase awareness of this issue, promote multidisciplinary strategies to prevent falls, and encourage citizens to take steps to protect those who are at increased risk of falling:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim September 20-24, 2021 as

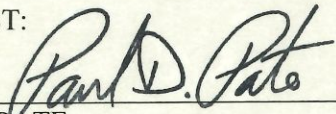
FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 15th DAY OF SEPTEMBER IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE.


KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:



PAUL PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE