

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 569

Designating September 23, 2014, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day” to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating September 23, 2014, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day” to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults.

Whereas adults who are age 65 or older (referred to in this preamble as “older adults”) are the fastest-growing population in the United States;

Whereas the number of older adults in the United States is expected to increase from 35,000,000 older adults in 2000 to 79,700,000 older adults in 2040;

Whereas each year, 1 out of every 3 older adults in the United States falls;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries among older adults;

Whereas in 2012, more than 2,400,000 older adults were treated in hospital emergency departments for fall-related injuries, and more than 722,000 older adults were subsequently hospitalized from such injuries;

Whereas in 2011, more than 22,900 older adults in the United States died from injuries related to unintentional falls;

Whereas in 2010, the total direct medical cost of fall-related injuries for older adults, adjusted for inflation, was \$30,000,000,000;

Whereas between 2004 and 2014, the rate of death from falls of older adults in the United States has risen sharply;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of falls does not decrease, the annual cost of injuries from falls will reach an estimated \$67,700,000,000 by 2020; and

Whereas evidence-based programs show promise in reducing falls by utilizing cost-effective strategies, such as exercise programs to improve balance and strength, medication management, vision improvement, comprehensive clinical assessments, and reduction of home hazards: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates September 23, 2014, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day”;

3 (2) recognizes that there are proven, cost-effective falls prevention programs and policies;

4 (3) commends the 72 member organizations of
5 the Falls Free® Coalition, and the falls prevention
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1 coalitions in 42 States and the District of Columbia,
2 for their efforts to work together to increase edu-
3 cation and awareness about preventing falls among
4 adults who are age 65 or older (referred to in this
5 resolution as “older adults”);

6 (4) encourages businesses, individuals, Federal,
7 State, and local governments, the public health com-
8 munity, and health care providers to work together
9 to raise awareness of falls in an effort to reduce the
10 incidence of falls among older adults in the United
11 States;

12 (5) urges the Centers for Disease Control and
13 Prevention to continue developing and evaluating
14 interventions to prevent falls among older adults
15 that will translate into effective community-based
16 falls prevention programs;

17 (6) urges the Administration for Community
18 Living, the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
19 tion, and their partners to continue to promote evi-
20 dence-based programs and services in communities
21 across the United States to reduce the number of
22 older adults at risk of falling;

23 (7) encourages State health departments and
24 State Units on Aging, which provide significant lead-
25 ership in reducing injuries and related health care

1 costs, to collaborate with organizations and individ-
2 uals to reduce falls among older adults in the United
3 States; and

4 (8) encourages experts in the field of falls pre-
5 vention to share best practices so that others can
6 replicate their success.

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