

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota Office of the Governor

Whereas, falls were the top cause of injury-related deaths, nonfatal injury-related hospitalizations, and emergency department visits from 2012-2021. The number of fall-related deaths increased in South Dakota by 58% from 2012 to 2021; and,

Whereas, South Dakotans over the age of 65 are at an increased risk of fall-related injuries; and,

Whereas, in 2021, the CDC reported that South Dakota ranked third highest in the nation for fall-related deaths among individuals aged 65 and older. 90% of these fall-related deaths occurred in the home or residential institutions; and,

Whereas, nationally, \$50 billion is spent on medical costs relating to fall-related injuries, and \$754 million is spent on fall-related deaths each year; and,

Whereas, evidence-based prevention efforts to decrease falls are important to reducing the incidence and prevalence of injuries among older adults; and,

Whereas, the South Dakota Falls Prevention Coalition is a multi-disciplinary group of professionals working to increase knowledge about falls among older South Dakotans and promote evidence-based strategies to reduce and prevent falls;

Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the week of September 18, 2023, as

FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.


Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:


Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State