

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 276

Designating September 22, 2009, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

Mr. KOHL (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating September 22, 2009, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day”.

Whereas older adults age 65 and over are the fastest growing segment of our population and whose numbers will increase from 35,000,000 in 2000 to 55,000,000 in 2020;

Whereas 1 in every 3 people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older falls each year;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of injury, deaths, and hospital admissions for traumatic injuries among adults 65 years of age and older;

Whereas, in 2007, approximately 1,900,000 people with fall-related injuries were treated in hospital emergency departments and approximately 492,000 were hospitalized after treatment;

Whereas, in 2006, more 16,600 people aged 65 and older died from injuries related to unintentional falls;

Whereas, in 2000, direct medical costs for fall-related injuries for adults aged 65 and older totaled more than \$19,000,000,000;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of increase in falls is not slowed, annual direct treatment costs under the Medicare program will reach \$32,400,000,000 by 2020;

Whereas evidence-based programs show promise in reducing falls and facilitating cost-effective interventions, such as comprehensive clinical assessments, exercise programs to improve balance and health, management of medications, correction of vision, and reduction of home hazards;

Whereas research indicates that fall prevention programs for high-risk older adults have a net-cost savings of almost \$9 in benefits to society for each \$1 invested;

Whereas the Safety of Seniors Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–202) was enacted to amend the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b et seq.) to create a national education campaign aimed at older adults, their families, and healthcare providers, and injury prevention programs that focus on the reduction and prevention of falls among older adults; and

Whereas the Falls Free Coalition Advocacy Work Group and its numerous national and State supporting organizations should be commended for their efforts to raise awareness and to promote better understanding, research, and programs to prevent falls among older adults: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) designates September 22, 2009, as “Na-
2 tional Falls Prevention Awareness Day”;

3 (2) commends the Falls Free Coalition Advo-
4 cacy Work Group and the 22 State falls coalitions
5 for their efforts to work together to increase edu-
6 cation and awareness about the prevention of falls
7 among older adults;

8 (3) encourages businesses, individuals, Federal,
9 State, and local governments, the public health com-
10 munity, and health care providers to work together
11 to promote the awareness of falls in an effort to re-
12 duce the incidence of falls among older people in the
13 United States;

14 (4) urges the Centers for Disease Control and
15 Prevention to continue developing and evaluating
16 interventions to prevent falls among older adults
17 that can be used in effective community-based fall
18 prevention programs;

19 (5) encourages State health departments to use
20 their significant leadership to reduce injuries and in-
21 jury-related health care costs by collaborating with
22 colleagues and a variety of organizations and indi-
23 viduals to reduce falls among older adults; and

24 (6) recognizes proven, cost effective fall preven-
25 tion programs and policies and encourages experts

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1 in the field of fall prevention to share their best
2 practices so that their success can be replicated by
3 others.

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