

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one fourth of people 65 and older will fall each year; and

WHEREAS, one out of five falls causes a serious injury such as broken bones or a head injury; and

WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries among older adults in the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to Kansas Department of Health and Environment Office of Vital Statistics and Kansas Hospital Association, falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries among people 65 and older in Kansas, leading to 445 deaths; 6,959 hospitalizations; and 27,225 emergency department visits in 2022; and

WHEREAS, falls are the most common cause of traumatic brain injuries among Kansas citizens 65 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, the average medical costs for an unintentional fall among Kansas residents ages 65 and older was \$53,889 in 2022; and

WHEREAS, injuries from falls are largely a preventable community health problem; 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 Kansas Older Adult 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, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim, September 23-27, 2024, as

Falls Prevention Awareness Week

in the state of Kansas and I urge all citizens to join in this observation.



DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 23rd day of
September, A.D. 2024

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Laura Kelly
Scott Selman

Secretary of State

J. Blum

Assistant Secretary of State