

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 553

Designating September 22, 2012, 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 12, 2012

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

RESOLUTION

Designating September 22, 2012, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day” to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults.

Whereas older adults, 65 years of age and older, are the fastest-growing segment of the population in the United States, and the number of older adults in the United States will increase from 35,000,000 in 2000 to 72,100,000 in 2030;

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

Whereas falls are the leading cause of injury, death, and hospital admissions for traumatic injuries among older adults;

Whereas, in 2010, approximately 2,300,000 older adults were treated in hospital emergency departments for fall-related injuries, and more than 650,000 were subsequently hospitalized;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2008, more than 20,000 older adults died from injuries related to unintentional falls;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the total cost of fall-related injuries for older adults is \$80,900,000,000, including more than \$28,300,000,000 in direct medical costs;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of increase in falls is not slowed, the annual cost under the Medicare program will reach \$59,600,000,000 by 2020; and

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: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates September 22, 2012, as “Na-
3 tional Falls Prevention Awareness Day”;

4 (2) commends the Falls Free Coalition and the
5 falls prevention coalitions in 43 States and the Dis-
6 trict of Columbia for their efforts to work together
7 to increase education and awareness about the pre-
8 vention of falls among older adults;

1 (3) encourages businesses, individuals, Federal,
2 State, and local governments, the public health com-
3 munity, and health care providers to work together
4 to promote the awareness of falls in an effort to re-
5 duce the incidence of falls among older adults in the
6 United States;

7 (4) urges the Centers for Disease Control and
8 Prevention to continue developing and evaluating
9 strategies to prevent falls among older adults that
10 will translate into effective fall prevention interven-
11 tions, including community-based programs;

12 (5) encourages State health departments, which
13 provide significant leadership in reducing injuries
14 and injury-related health care costs by collaborating
15 with colleagues and a variety of organizations and
16 individuals, to reduce falls among older adults; and

17 (6) recognizes proven, cost-effective falls pre-
18 vention programs and policies and encourages ex-
19 perts in the field to share their best practices so that
20 their success can be replicated by others.

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