

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 248

Designating September 22, 2013, 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 19, 2013

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KING, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating September 22, 2013, 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 death and hospital admissions for 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, in 2010, more than 21,000 older adults died from injuries related to unintentional falls;

Whereas the total annual medical cost of fall-related injuries for older adults is estimated at \$30,000,000,000;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of increase in falls is not slowed, the total annual medical cost of fall-related injuries for older adults will reach \$59,600,000,000 by 2020; and

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

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates September 22, 2013, as “Na-
3 tional Falls Prevention Awareness Day”;

4 (2) recognizes that there are proven, cost-effec-
5 tive falls prevention programs and policies;

6 (3) commends the Falls Free Coalition and the
7 falls prevention coalitions in 42 States and the Dis-
8 trict of Columbia for their efforts to work together
9 to increase education and awareness about the pre-
10 vention of falls among older adults;

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

7 (5) urges the Centers for Disease Control and
8 Prevention to continue developing and evaluating
9 interventions to prevent falls among older adults
10 that will translate into effective community-based
11 falls prevention programs;

12 (6) urges the Administration for Community
13 Living, the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
14 tion, and associated partners to continue to promote
15 evidence-based programs and services in commu-
16 nities in the United States to reduce the number of
17 older adults at risk for falls;

18 (7) encourages State health departments, which
19 provide significant leadership in reducing injuries
20 and injury-related health care costs by collaborating
21 with organizations and individuals, to reduce falls
22 among older adults; and

- 1 (8) encourages experts in the field of falls pre-
- 2 vention to share their best practices so that their
- 3 success can be replicated by others.

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