

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. _____

Designating September 23, 2019, 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

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Designating September 23, 2019, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day” to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults.

Whereas individuals who are 65 years of age or older (referred to in this preamble as “older adults”) 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 approximately 52,000,000 in 2018 to an estimated 95,000,000 by 2060;

Whereas approximately 30 percent of older adults in the United States fall each year, with each 5-year increment in age increasing the risk of falls;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries among older adults;

Whereas, in 2018, approximately 3,000,000 older adults were treated in hospital emergency departments for fall-related injuries, and nearly 870,000 of those older adults were subsequently hospitalized;

Whereas, in 2017, more than 31,000 older adults died from injuries related to unintentional falls, and the death rate from falls of older adults in the United States is expected to continue to sharply rise to more than 100,000 per year by 2030;

Whereas, in 2015, the total direct medical cost of fall-related injuries for older adults, adjusted for inflation, was approximately \$50,000,000,000;

Whereas, if the rate of increase in falls is not slowed, the annual cost of fall injuries will surpass \$100,000,000,000 by 2030; 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: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates September 23, 2019, 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 72 member organizations of
7 the Falls Free Coalition and the falls prevention coa-

1 litions in 43 States and the District of Columbia for
2 their efforts to work together to increase education
3 and awareness about preventing falls among older
4 adults;

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

11 (5) recognizes the Centers for Disease Control
12 and Prevention for its work developing and evalu-
13 ating interventions for all members of health care
14 teams to make falls prevention a routine part of
15 clinical care;

16 (6) recognizes the Administration for Commu-
17 nity Living for its work to promote access to evi-
18 dence-based programs and services in communities
19 across the United States;

20 (7) encourages State health departments and
21 State units on aging, which provide significant lead-
22 ership in reducing injuries and related health care
23 costs by collaborating with organizations and indi-
24 viduals, to reduce falls 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.