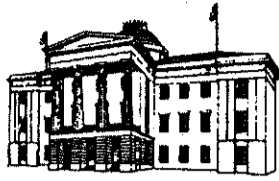


# State of North Carolina



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

## FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK

2009

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 12.1 percent of North Carolina citizens are 65 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one third of seniors over the age of 65 and half over the age of 80 will fall each year; and

WHEREAS, falls are the leading national cause of doctors visits, hospital admissions, nursing home admissions and emergency room visits, resulting in an estimated \$27 billion in medical costs annually, and falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among people over the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, falling, and the fear of falling, can lead to depression and hopelessness, loss of mobility, loss of functional independence; and

WHEREAS, older adults who fall once are two to three times more likely to fall again; and

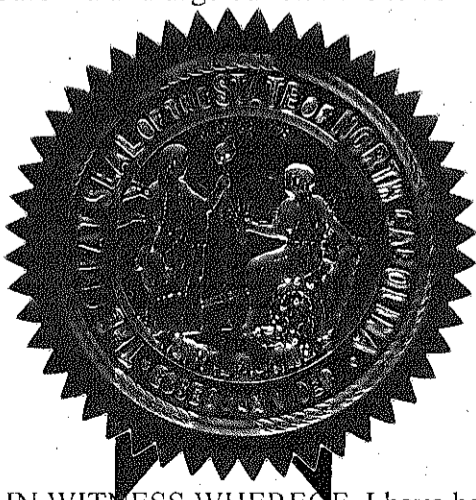
WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that the mortality rate from falls among older adults increased 45 percent between 2000 and 2004;

WHEREAS, the quality of life is improved for North Carolina seniors who remain healthy, active and independent; and

WHEREAS, injuries from falls are largely a preventable community health problem; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Falls Prevention Coalition, including more than 40 organizations from across the state, is working to increase awareness of this issue and encourage North Carolinians to take steps to protect those who are at increased risk of falling;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 20-26, 2009, as "FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK" in North Carolina and urge our citizens to commend its observance.



BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this second day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.