

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A proclamation

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

WHEREAS, the causes of falls vary, with contributing factors including lack of strength in lower extremities, reduced vision, the use of medications, chronic health problems and unsafe home conditions; and

WHEREAS, unintentional falls is the leading cause of injury hospitalization among Vermonters; and

WHEREAS, Vermont's death rate from falls is statistically higher than the national rate; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that if the rate of increase in falls is not slowed, the annual direct and indirect cost of fall injuries will reach \$59.6 billion by 2020; and at which time the cost under Medicare would be \$32.4 billion; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim September 22, 2012 as

FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY

in Vermont and urge all citizens to understand the importance
of falls prevention to improve the quality of life of older
adults and to reduce preventable increases in health care costs.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 19th day of September, A.D. 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", is written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor