116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Designating the week of September 21 through September 25, 2020, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Week" to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____

_____ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

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RESOLUTION

Designating the week of September 21 through September 25, 2020, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Week" 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 56,100,000 in 2020 to an estimated 73,100,000 by 2030;

Whereas approximately 30 percent of older adults in the United States fall each year, with each 10-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, older adults reported 35,600,000 falls, with approximately 8,400,000 of those falls resulting in an injury that limited regular activities or resulted in a medical visit;

Whereas, in 2018, approximately 3,000,000 older adults were treated in hospital emergency departments for fall-related injuries, and more than 950,000 of those older adults were subsequently hospitalized;

Whereas, in 2018, more than 32,000 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—

> (1) the total direct medical cost of fall-related injuries for older adults, adjusted for inflation, was approximately $50,000,000,000;

> (2) with respect to nonfatal falls, Medicare paid approximately $28,900,000,000, Medicaid paid approximately $8,700,000,000, and private and other payers paid approximately $12,000,000,000; and

> (3) overall medical spending for fatal falls was estimated to be $754,000,000;

Whereas, if the rate of increase in falls is not slowed, the annual cost of fall injuries will surpass $101,000,000,000 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, vi-

sion improvement, reduction of home hazards, and falls
prevention education: Now, therefore, be it

1   *Resolved,* That the Senate—

2   (1) designates the week of September 21

3   through September 25, 2020, as "National Falls

4   Prevention Awareness Week";

5   (2) recognizes that there are proven, cost-effec-

6   tive falls prevention programs and policies;

7   (3) commends the 73 member organizations of

8   the Falls Free Coalition and the falls prevention coa-

9   litions in 43 States and the District of Columbia for

10   their efforts to work together to increase education

11   and awareness about preventing falls among older

12   adults;

13   (4) encourages businesses, individuals, Federal,

14   State, and local governments, the public health com-

15   munity, and health care providers to work together

16   to raise awareness of falls in an effort to reduce the

17   incidence of falls among older adults in the United

18   States;

19   (5) recognizes the Centers for Disease Control

20   and Prevention for its work developing and evalu-

21   ating interventions for all members of health care

22   teams to make falls prevention a routine part of

23   clinical care;

4

1   (6) recognizes the Administration for Commu-

2 nity Living for its work to promote access to evi-

3 dence-based programs and services in communities

4 across the United States;

5   (7) encourages State health departments and

6 State units on aging, which provide significant lead-

7 ership in reducing injuries and related health care

8 costs by collaborating with organizations and indi-

9 viduals, to reduce falls among older adults; and

10   (8) encourages experts in the field of falls pre-

11 vention to share their best practices so that their

12 success can be replicated by others.