

**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

- WHEREAS,** Vermont is ranked 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states in the nation for prevalence of falls by the United Health Foundation’s 2018 America’s Health Rankings Senior Report; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest median age in the nation at 43.1 years old and 18.7 percent of Vermonters are 65 years of age or older; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont’s fall rate for persons age 65 and older is greater than 35.3 percent and significantly higher than the national rate of 29.5 percent; and
- WHEREAS,** falls are the most common cause of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and account for 31 percent of TBI-related deaths and 54 percent of TBI hospitalizations and emergency department visits; and
- WHEREAS,** falls are the leading cause of injury-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency department visits in Vermont; and
- WHEREAS,** falls and the fear of falling can lead to depression and hopelessness, as well as a loss of mobility and independence; and
- WHEREAS,** the Falls Free Vermont coalition, in partnership with the Vermont Department of Health, Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, Vermont Area Agencies on Aging, University of Vermont Center on Aging, health care system providers, and Vermont Emergency Medical Services encourages use of free falls risk screenings and falls prevention programs offered in communities around the state; and
- WHEREAS,** older adults can remain independent and reduce their chances of falling through regular exercises, reviewing their medication with a health care provider, having their eyes checked annually, and making their home safer by installing safety devices; and
- WHEREAS,** older adults, family members, caregivers, health care professionals, and service providers are encouraged to raise awareness and prevent falls by supporting evidence-based interventions, community partnerships, and education to substantially reduce the number of falls.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, do hereby proclaim September 2018 as

**FALLS PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH**

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 25th day of July, A.D. 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott  
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaye Pershing Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Jaye Pershing Johnson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs