State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Falling Prevention Awareness Day

WHEREAS, over 14% of Rhode Islanders 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 cause of injury-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency department visits among Rhode Islanders 65 and older; and

WHEREAS, falls and the fear of falling can lead to depression and hopelessness, loss of mobility and loss of independence for older adults; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated in 2000, direct medical costs of falls totaled over $19 billion; and

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

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Falls Injury Prevention Coalition, including more than 30 organizations from across the state, is working to increase awareness of this issue, promote multi-disciplinary strategies to prevent falls, and encourage Rhode Islanders to take steps to protect those who are at increased risk of falling; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2011 as Falling Prevention Awareness Day in Rhode Island, and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this month.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 20th day of September, 2011

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State