



RESOLUTION

JANUARY 2008

TITLE: SENIOR FALL INJURY PREVENTION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, by 2030 the number of Americans aged 65 and older will more than double to 71 million and make up 20 percent of the U.S. population;¹

WHEREAS, falls cause more deaths, doctor visits, hospitals admissions, and emergency room visits than any other type of injury among those aged 65 and older;

WHEREAS, by 2040, the national medical costs of falls will exceed \$240 billion each year;¹

WHEREAS, nearly 40 percent of older adults who suffer a hip fracture as a result of a fall will lose their independence and live out their days in a long-term care facility;¹

WHEREAS, recent scientific research shows that most senior falls can be prevented;

WHEREAS, the major causes of falls are now identified as lack of strength in the legs, the use of four or more medications, reduced vision, chronic health problems, and unsafe home conditions;

WHEREAS, data for describing fall injuries, monitoring trends, and evaluating prevention are scattered and incomplete;

WHEREAS, there is an URGENT need nationally for comprehensive programs to prevent falls by addressing these risk factors;

WHEREAS, there is a need to increase awareness among local, state, and federal policy makers about fall-related injuries and practical approaches to prevention;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Safe States Alliance should create a special chapter in its State of the States assessment to describe and assess public health-led senior injury prevention efforts across the nation;

Safe States Alliance should convene partners in and out of public health to implement the consensus recommendations of the Injury Surveillance Workgroup on Falls;

Safe States Alliance should work with the Falls Free Coalition to convene a bi-annual national summit on senior fall injury prevention to stimulate and disseminate successful policies, current research, and evidence-based interventions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT Safe States Alliance should work with the Falls Free Coalition to advocate for ongoing investments in senior falls prevention to help ensure the well-being of our nation's older population and the integrity of our health care system.

DATE: January 2008

Revised: June 22, 2010

¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/adultfalls.htm>