State of Colorado

Proclamation

WHEREAS, from 2013 to 2017 Colorado's aging population increased 17% from 644,356 persons to 772,793 persons; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's population of citizens aged 65 and over projected to rise by more than 160% by 2040; and

WHEREAS, between 2017 – 2018, one thousand eight hundred and thirty motor vehicle operators 65 years of age and above were involved in fatal traffic crashes; and

WHEREAS, from 2017-2018 one hundred forty-seven persons 65 years of age or older died in traffic crashes; and

WHEREAS, while some older adults tend to drive safely and are more likely than younger adults to wear a seat belt, take shorter trips, and limit their driving, adults ages 65-84 are overrepresented in the percentage of vehicle crashes involving death or serious injury; and

WHEREAS, a number of organizations in Colorado including the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Occupational Therapy Association of Colorado, the Reaching Older Adult Drivers Program; and

WHEREAS, the American Automobile Association of Colorado, Health Promotion Partners, LLC, CarFit, the Fitness to Drive Community and Red Hawk all seek to improve older driver safety in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the American Occupational Therapy Association observes the period of December 7-11, 2020 as Older Driver Safety Awareness Week and believes that occupational therapy practitioners have the skills to evaluate a person's overall ability to operate a vehicle safely and provide rehabilitation, if necessary; and

WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that older adults remain active in the community—including shopping, working, or volunteering—with the confidence that transportation will not be the barrier to their independence;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado do hereby proclaim the period of time between December 7, 2020 and December 11, 2020 as

OLDER DRIVER SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this seventh day of December, 2020

Jared Polis
Governor