

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, older Americans, which account for more than 14.1 percent of the total population, strengthen our communities and the American way of life, and they provide gifts of wisdom and they share life experiences with the generations who follow them; and

**WHEREAS**, older Americans are owed a debt of gratitude and it is vital that we ensure they age with dignity, are provided with home and community-based services that include health promotion, safety measures, preventive care programs, and nursing and rehabilitation facilities that will enable them to live healthier lives; and

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately 19 million American seniors residing in nursing homes and of those, there are more than 80,000 residents living in facilities in Florida who rely on others, including licensed caregivers, to provide for their needs, safety and comfort, making them vulnerable; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress passed the Nursing Home Reform Law of 1987, and the Older Americans Act of 1992 to establish national nursing home standards and the Florida legislature passed minimum safe staffing standards in 2000 to further insure quality care and safety for nursing home residents and workload standards for caregivers which they amended in 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, quality nursing home care is contingent upon a robust number of qualified caregivers safeguarding residents and their rights, and certified nursing assistants (CNA's) provide 90 percent of the direct bedside care for the residents, and studies indicate that good working conditions and a living wage increases worker productivity and fulfillment which increases the quality of care for the residents under their charge; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, recruitment and retention of qualified licensed caregivers for both home and nursing home care has proven difficult due to low wages, lack of access to training and personal development opportunities, and a short fall of adequate staffing, leading to the care of our seniors to be greatly compromised. One out of five Florida nursing homes is on the state's watch list for chronically dangerous conditions and there are many documented harmful incidences recorded; and

**WHEREAS**, the quality of life and care for the valued senior citizens in our community is of the utmost importance and on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, concerned community leaders, experts in aging and the elderly, and licensed home caregivers will host a panel discussion to address the current concerns in senior care on behalf of Florida's senior citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, April 5, 2016 as

## ***"FLORIDA SENIOR CARE DAY"***

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the contributions senior citizens in our community have made throughout their lives, and advocate for them to ensure quality of care and quality of life they each deserve.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.



*City of*  
**Tampa**  
Florida

*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor