



### **Statement on *Insure Tennessee***

The Rural Health Association of Tennessee wholeheartedly supports Governor Haslam's *Insure Tennessee* program for expanding Medicaid (TennCare) in the state.

Insure Tennessee will be good for rural Tennesseans because it will:

1. Expand access to health coverage for approximately 170,000 Tennesseans in all 95 counties who are currently not eligible for TennCare or subsidies on the health exchange. This will positively impact our ranking as #45 out of all 50 states in the most recent America's Health Rankings.
2. Strengthen our workforce, as many of the people who would be eligible are already employed. Businesses are more likely to relocate to rural areas if the population is healthy. *Insure Tennessee* will result in an estimated \$1.03 billion of new revenue to healthcare systems, such as hospitals, across the state.
3. Makes perfect fiscal sense for Tennessee. The state will receive \$6.4 billion in new federal funds in the first 5.5 years of the plan. During this time, the state will spend about \$199 million. There will be no new taxes nor will it use any monies already earmarked.

Source: <http://insuretnnow.com/>