



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, rural communities in Tennessee and throughout the United States are wonderful places to live and work, places where people know each other, listen to and respect each other and work together to benefit the community; and

WHEREAS, rural America is the economic engine that helped the United States become the world leader it is today; and

WHEREAS, rural residents possess a selfless, creative, community-minded spirit; and

WHEREAS, meeting the unique health care needs of those residents evolves constantly as rural communities face accessibility issues, a lack of health care providers, an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions and larger percentages of un- and underinsured residents; and

WHEREAS, ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural America, where only 20 percent of the nation's population lives but most trauma deaths occur; and

WHEREAS, rural hospitals, in addition to being sources of innovation and resourcefulness that reach beyond geographical boundaries to deliver quality care, are also typically the economic foundation of their communities; and

WHEREAS, being a rural health care provider affords tremendous opportunities to offer comprehensive, compassionate, patient-centered and holistic care to patients; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Office of Rural Health plays a distinct and critical role by leading efforts to address the unique health care needs of our rural residents; and

WHEREAS, as our rural communities have been particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize the extraordinary work that rural health care providers are engaging in to care for patients who have been affected and fight the spread of this disease;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2020 as

Rural Health Day

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this tenth day of November, 2020.

Bill Lee

Governor

Lee Vincent

Secretary of State