



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, rural communities in Tennessee and throughout the United States are wonderful places to live and work - they are places where people know, 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 citizens possess a selfless, creative, community-minded spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, meeting the unique healthcare needs of those citizens is constantly evolving, as rural communities face accessibility issues, a lack of healthcare providers, an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of un- and underinsured citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural America, where 19 percent of the nation's population lives; 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, which contributes to for the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, being a rural healthcare provider provides tremendous opportunities to offer more comprehensive, compassionate, patient-centered and holistic care to patients; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee State Office of Rural Health and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health play a distinct and critical role by leading efforts to address the unique healthcare needs of our rural citizens;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim November 16, 2017 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 twenty-fourth day of October, 2017.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*DeVigil*

Secretary of State