



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 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 citizens possess a selfless, creative, community-minded spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, meeting the unique health care needs of those citizens is constantly evolving, 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 citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural America, where 20 percent of the nation's population lives but nearly 60 percent of all 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, with every dollar spent generating about \$2.20 for the local economy; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee 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 health care needs of our rural citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important for citizens to recognize the unique health care needs and opportunities that exist in those communities, and recognize the Tennessee State Office of Rural Health and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health for the valuable services they provide to address those needs and opportunities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2018 to 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 fifteenth day of October, 2018.

Governor

Secretary of State

