



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, 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 uninsured and underinsured citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural America, where twenty percent of the nation's population lives but nearly sixty 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; 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 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 15, 2012 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 24th day of October, 2012.

A blue ink signature of Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee, written over a horizontal line.

Governor

A blue ink signature of Joe Vargatt, Secretary of State, written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of State

