



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, rural communities in Tennessee are wonderful places to live, work, and raise a family; and

**WHEREAS**, rural residents possess a selfless, creative, community-minded spirit; 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-related deaths occur; and

**WHEREAS**, meeting the unique healthcare needs of residents evolves constantly as rural communities face accessibility issues, a lack of providers, an aging population, and a high number of underinsured residents; and

**WHEREAS**, rural hospitals reach beyond geographical boundaries to deliver quality care, and 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; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2022 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-seventh day of October 2022.

Handwritten signature of Bill Lee in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Bergott in blue ink.

Secretary of State