



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, rural communities in Tennessee and throughout the United States are among the most desirable places to live, work, raise a family, and retire; and

WHEREAS, rural communities are resilient, resourceful, innovative, and collaborative; addressing local challenges with creative solutions; and

WHEREAS, nearly 61 million people (19.7% of the population) and 86% of the country's land area are considered rural; and

WHEREAS, the rural areas in Tennessee offer a rewarding challenge for dedicated healthcare professionals who choose to serve by providing essential and comprehensive care to the residents; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Office of Rural Health plays a key role in the effort to address and resolve the issues experienced in rural communities such as provider shortages, accessibility to healthcare, transportation barriers, and often times an aging population that suffers from chronic illness; and

WHEREAS, by increasing awareness of the unique healthcare needs of Tennessee's rural population and celebrating the "Power of Rural" we strive to honor those who work to make a difference in the health and wellbeing of thousands across our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim November 16, 2023 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 eighteenth day of September 2023.

Bill Lee

Governor

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Secretary of State