



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, 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 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 geographic boundaries to deliver quality care, are also typically the economic foundation of their communities; and

WHEREAS, being a rural health care provider allows tremendous opportunities, especially through the use of telemedicine, 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, in partnership with the Rural Health Association of Tennessee, play a distinct and critical role by leading efforts to address the unique health care needs of our rural citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim November 20, 2014 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 seventeenth day of September, 2014.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Hight

Secretary of State

