



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 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 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; 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, 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 19, 2015 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 second day of November, 2015.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Joe Hargett*

Secretary of State