



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, rural communities throughout America are wonderful places to live and work. They are places where people know each other, listen to and 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, America's 62 million 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 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 with every dollar spent generating about two dollars and twenty cents (2.20) for the local economy; and

WHEREAS, being a rural health care provider provides tremendous opportunities to offer more comprehensive, compassionate, patient-centered and holistic care to patients; and

WHEREAS, state offices of rural health, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, and other rural stakeholders play a distinct, critical role in addressing the unique health care needs of our rural citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2018, as

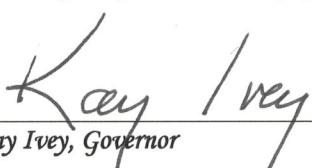
## National Rural Health Day

in the State of Alabama, and encourage citizens to honor our rural communities as wonderful places to live and work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, I encourage citizens to recognize the unique health care needs and opportunities that exist in those communities, and recognize the State Office of Rural Health, the Alabama Hospital Association, the Alabama Rural Health Association, and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health for the valuable services they provide to address those needs and opportunities.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the  
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City  
of Montgomery on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018.

  
Kay Ivey, Governor