**[INSERT ASSOCIATION NAME] Encourages Members to Celebrate National Rural Health Day**

**[INSERT ASSOCIATION NAME]** encourages its members to join **[INSERT ASSOCIATION NAME/ ACRONYM]** the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) and other state/national rural stakeholders to “Celebrate the Power of Rural” during the sixth annual ***National Rural Health Day*** celebration on **Thursday, November 17, 2016**.

 NOSORH created National Rural Health Day as a way to showcase the good work of America’s 62 million rural citizens and promote the efforts of NOSORH, State Offices of Rural Health and others in addressing those concerns.

 “At the same time, National Rural Health Day gives us an opportunity to raise awareness of the unique healthcare issues being faced by rural citizens, particularly a lack of healthcare providers and affordability issues resulting from larger percentages of un-/underinsured citizens and greater out-of-pocket health costs, to name a few,” said NOSORH Director Teryl Eisinger. “And while the Affordable Care Act may make health care more affordable for rural Americans, it doesn’t necessarily make it more accessible – a lack of public transportation, fragile infrastructures, and geographic barriers also must be overcome in order to ensure that all rural safety net providers can adequately meet the basic healthcare needs of their residents.”

Events recognizing National Rural Health Day and “Celebrating the Power of Rural” are being planned throughout the nation. **[INSERT ASSOCIATION NAME/ACRONYM]** is planning to mark the occasion by ***[NOTE:* This is where “partner associations” can add a paragraph or two about their National Rural Health Day celebration plans … and invite their members to join them if appropriate!]**

 **[INSERT ASSOCIATION NAME/ACRONYM]** supports rural citizens by ***[NOTE:* This is where “partner associations” can add a paragraph or two about the good work they are doing to benefit rural America – don’t be afraid to brag about yourself!]**

 Additional information about National Rural Health Day can be found at [nosorh.org/nrhd](http://nosorh.org/nrhd/). To learn more about NOSORH, visit [www.nosorh.org](http://www.nosorh.org); to learn more about **[INSERT ASSOCIATION NAME/ACRONYM]**, visit **[INSERT ASSOCIATION WEBSITE]**.

-nosorh-

Editors: Teryl Eisinger can be reached at (586) 739-9940 or teryle@nosorh.org; **[INSERT ASSOCIATION SPOKESPERSON]** can be reached at **[INSERT SPOKESPERSON’S CONTACT INFO]**. For additional information, please contact NOSORH Special Projects Coordinator, Matt Strycker at (574) 855-4671 or stryckerm@nosorh.org