**National Rural Health Day Gubernatorial/Legislative Proclamation Template**

*(Fill in the name of the State/Commonwealth and the name of the Governor, where indicated.)*

**WHEREAS,** rural communities in (State/Commonwealth) and throughout the United States are wonderful places to live and work – they are places where people know each other, listen to/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 un- 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 $2.20 for the local economy; 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 (State/Commonwealth) Office of Rural Health and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health play a distinct and critical role by leading efforts to address the unique healthcare needs of our rural citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, the Hon. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Governor of (State/Commonwealth), do hereby proclaim November 17, 2016 to be National Rural Health Day in (State/Commonwealth), and encourage citizens to honor our rural communities as wonderful places to live and work; and

**FURTHER**, I encourage citizens to recognize the unique healthcare needs and opportunities that exist in those communities, and recognize the (State/Commonwealth) Office of Rural Health and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health for the valuable services they provide to address those needs and opportunities.

Dated, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2016