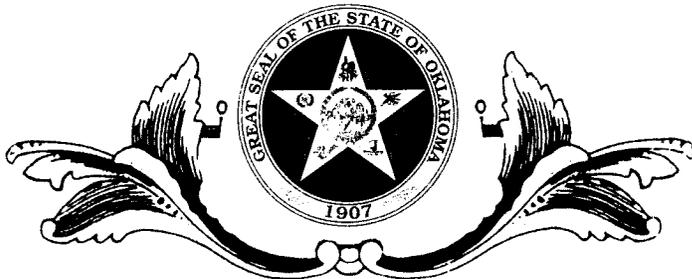


OCT 12 2020

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, rural communities are places where people know each other, listen to and respect each other, and work together to benefit the community, and are wonderful places to live and work; and

Whereas, rural America is the economic engine that helped the United States become the world leader it is today, and rural citizens possess a selfless, creative, community-minded spirit; and

Whereas, the unique healthcare needs of those citizens are 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 only 20 percent of the nation's population lives but where the majority of 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, rural healthcare providers provide tremendous opportunities to offer more comprehensive, compassionate, patient-centered, and holistic care to patients; and

Whereas, the Oklahoma 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, Governor J. Kevin Stitt, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2020, as

“National Rural Health Day”

in the State of Oklahoma.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this twelfth day of October, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred and twelfth year.

Michelle Waddell

Acting Assistant SECRETARY OF STATE

Kevin Stitt

GOVERNOR

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