



# *Proclamation*

## *By the Governor of Alabama*

*WHEREAS, rural communities in Alabama 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 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, challenges posed by the novel coronavirus COVID-19, and larger percentages of underinsured or uninsured 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, in addition to being sources of innovation and resourcefulness that reach beyond geographical boundaries to deliver quality care, rural hospitals are also typically the economic foundation of their communities; 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, the Alabama 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, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2020, as*

# *Rural Health Day*

*in the state of Alabama.*



*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 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020.*

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor