



State of Missouri
Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, approximately 2.06 million Missourians, 33.7 percent of the population, are living within the rural counties making up 86 percent of Missouri's land; and

WHEREAS, meeting the unique health care needs of rural citizens is constantly evolving due to difficulties accessing health care, lack of health care providers, an aging population, a greater prevalence of chronic conditions, and a larger percentage of uninsured and underinsured citizens; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's 64 rural hospitals, in addition to being leaders of innovation and resourcefulness that reach beyond geographical boundaries, are also the largest employer and economic foundation of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's rural health care providers are vital in providing their communities access to high-quality, coordinated health care services; and

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

WHEREAS, rural Missouri has experienced a higher COVID-19 mortality rate than both statewide and urban rates; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Office of Rural Health and Primary Care and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health play a distinct and critical role by leading efforts to address the unique health care needs of our rural citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim November 17, 2022, to be

RURAL HEALTH DAY

in Missouri, and encourage all citizens to recognize the unique health care needs and opportunities that exist in these communities.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 26th day of August, 2022.



Michael L. Parson
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE