



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

RURAL HEALTH DAY

- WHEREAS:** Rural communities in Georgia are wonderful places to live and work; they are places where people know each other, listen to, and respect each other, and work together to benefit their community, and where people possess a selfless, creative, and community-minded spirit; and
- WHEREAS:** Meeting the unique healthcare needs of rural 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 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:** Being a rural healthcare provider provides tremendous opportunities to offer more comprehensive, compassionate, patient-centered, and holistic care to patients; and
- WHEREAS:** The Georgia State 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; and
- WHEREAS:** Knicole Lee was recognized by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health as the 2021 Community Star for the State of Georgia for her innovation, demonstration of rural health leadership, and mission driven programs to grow rural Georgia healthcare resources; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia encourages citizens to recognize the unique healthcare needs and opportunities that exist in rural communities and recognize the Georgia State 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; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 18, 2021 as RURAL HEALTH DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 8th day of October in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Manton Kipfer

CHIEF OF STAFF