



# *Proclamation*

## *By the Governor of Alabama*

*WHEREAS, rural communities in Alabama, and throughout the United States are wonderful places to live and work; and*

*WHEREAS, in rural communities, people know each other, listen to one another, act out of mutual respect and work together to benefit their community; and*

*WHEREAS, rural citizens possess a selfless, creative community-minded spirit; and*

*WHEREAS, agriculture is Alabama's leading industry; and*

*WHEREAS, the survival of everyone is almost entirely dependent upon products or resources that are produced or originate in rural areas; and*

*WHEREAS, meeting the unique healthcare needs of our 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 underinsured citizens; and*

*WHEREAS, ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural Alabama, where 41 percent of the state's population lives; 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 offers tremendous opportunities to present more comprehensive, compassionate, patient-centered and holistic care to patients;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim November 16, 2017, as*

# *Rural Health Day*

*in the State of Alabama and encourage all citizens to honor our rural communities as wonderful places to live and work.*



*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 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 2017.*

*Kay Ivey*  
Kay Ivey, Governor