

# STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, there are 82 rural counties in Illinois and the communities within are places where residents know each other, listen to and respect each other, and work together for the greater good; and,

**WHEREAS**, these communities are filled with leaders – ordinary people willing to step forward, share, and implement a vision, and drive change that benefits everyone; and,

**WHEREAS**, health care, like so many other things in rural America, focuses on relationships and health care providers get to know the people they care for and have the opportunity to practice more patient-centered medicine; and,

**WHEREAS**, the main emphasis of rural health care has always been on providing affordable, holistic, primary care – a model for the rest of the country to follow as America transitions to a population/wellness/prevention-based system of health care; and,

**WHEREAS**, rural hospitals and health systems are often the economic foundation and largest employers in these communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, addressing transportation, workforce, infrastructure, and broadband/telecommunication needs and overcoming geographic barriers is necessary to ensure that all rural safety net providers can adequately meet the basic health care needs of the residents they serve; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Rural Health, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, and other rural stakeholders provide services and resources and foster relationships that help rural communities address their unique healthcare needs; and,

**WHEREAS**, on November 17, 2016, National Rural Health Day will be celebrated throughout the United States;

**THEREFORE**, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of Illinois, do hereby proclaim November 17, 2016 as **RURAL HEALTH DAY** in Illinois, and encourage citizens to recognize the unique health care contributions of rural communities and rural stakeholders.

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

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,  
 this TWENTY-FIRST day of OCTOBER, in  
 the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and  
SIXTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,  
NINETY-EIGHTH  
 one hundred and \_\_\_\_\_.



*Deese White*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Bruce Rauner*

GOVERNOR