STATE OF
NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

RURAL HEALTH DAY
NOVEMBER 19, 2026

WHEREAS, rural communities in North Dakota and throughout the United States are exceptional places to live, work and volunteer; and

WHEREAS, nearly 61 million people (19.7% of the U.S. population) and 86% of the country's land area are considered rural; and

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of our citizens are of utmost importance to our great state; and

WHEREAS, rural communities often experience barriers such as limited access to healthcare services, shortages of healthcare providers, transportation challenges, an aging population with higher rates of chronic conditions and a greater proportion of uninsured and underinsured citizens; and

WHEREAS, rural communities are resilient, resourceful and innovative – meeting challenges with creativity and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, rural America offers meaningful opportunities for dedicated health professionals to deliver high-quality, personalized care and essential health services; and

WHEREAS, National Rural Health Day – established by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health and observed annually on the third Thursday of November – highlights the unique healthcare needs and opportunities in rural communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim NOVEMBER 19, 2026, **RURAL HEALTH DAY** in the State of North Dakota.

GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA — OCTOBER 1st 1889 — LIBERTY AND UNION NOW AND FOREVER ONE AND INSEPARABLE

Kelly Armstrong
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:
Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE