



State of
North Dakota

Office of the Governor

Doug Burgum
Governor

PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY
NOVEMBER 16, 2017

WHEREAS, rural communities in North Dakota and throughout the United States 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 the community; and

WHEREAS, rural America is the economic engine that helped the United States become the world leader it is today. North Dakota's 379,985 rural citizens possess a selfless, creative, community-minded spirit; and

WHEREAS, meeting the unique health care needs of those citizens is constantly evolving, as rural communities face accessibility issues, a lack of health care providers, an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of uninsured and underinsured citizens; and

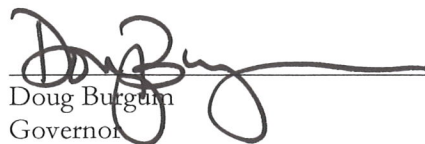
WHEREAS, ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural America, where 20 percent of the nation's population lives but nearly 60 percent of all trauma deaths occur; and

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, with every dollar spent generating approximately \$2.20 for the local economy; and

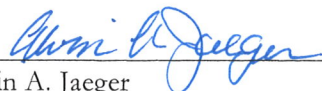
WHEREAS, being a rural health care provider provides tremendous opportunities to offer more comprehensive, compassionate, patient-centered and holistic care to patients; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Rural Health, UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, and other rural stakeholders play distinct, critical roles in addressing the unique health care needs of our rural citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim November 16, 2017, **NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY** in the State of North Dakota.


Doug Burgum
Governor

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State