

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Rural communities in Arkansas and throughout the United States are wonderful places to live and work. They are places where people know each other, 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; and

WHEREAS: Rural citizens possess a selfless, creative, community-minded spirit; and

WHEREAS: Meeting the unique healthcare needs of those 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 uninsured and underinsured citizens; and

WHEREAS: Ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural America, where 14 percent of the nation's population lives and deaths from unintentional injury are over twice what would be expected; 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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, as

**NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY IN ARKANSAS**

across the State, and I encourage citizens to honor our rural communities as wonderful places to live and work while recognizing the unique healthcare needs and opportunities that exist in these areas.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, in the year of our Lord 2020.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor