

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, Kansas rural communities are a fixture for living and working in this state; and

WHEREAS, rural hospitals are often the economic foundation of their communities; and

WHEREAS, rural communities face accessibility issues, provider shortages, and larger percentages of uninsured and underinsured citizens, resulting in over half of Kansas rural hospitals being at risk of closing; and

WHEREAS, eight rural Kansas hospitals have closed in the last decade, forcing people in the surrounding communities to travel farther and wait longer for basic health services; and

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

WHEREAS, rural healthcare providers work to meet the unique needs of their patients by offering more comprehensive, compassionate, and holistic care; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, the Kansas Hospital Association, the Kansas Center for Rural Health, the Kansas Rural Health Association, and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health play a distinct and critical role by leading efforts to address rural health disparities; and

WHEREAS, the most important thing the State of Kansas could do to promote healthy rural communities and protect rural hospitals would be to expand Medicaid, given that rural hospitals are six times more likely to close in states that haven't expanded Medicaid as they are in states that have.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim, November 16, 2023, as

National Rural Health Day 2023

in the state of Kansas and I urge all citizens to join in this observation.



DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 27th day of
October, A.D. 2023

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Laura Kelly

Paul Scheel

Secretary of State

Sandy Tompkins
Assistant Secretary of State