STATE OF KANSAS

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, rural communities in Kansas and throughout the United States are wonderful places to live and work – they are places where people know each other, listen to/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 un- 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 about $2.20 for the local economy; and

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

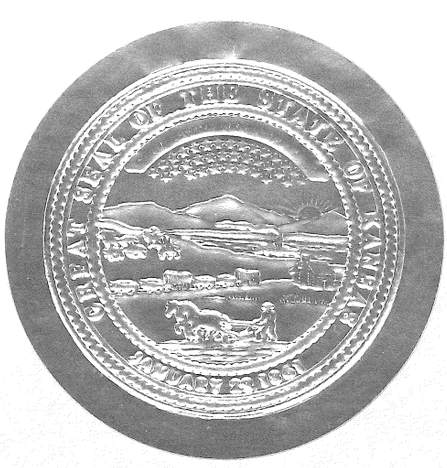
WHEREAS, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Community Health Systems –Rural Health program and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health play a distinct and critical role by leading efforts to address the unique healthcare needs of our rural citizens:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sam Brownback, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim November 17th of 2011, as

National Rural Health Day

in Kansas and encourage citizens to honor our rural communities as wonderful places to live and work.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka under the Great Seal of the State this 28th day of October, A.D. 2011



BY THE GOVERNOR: Sam Brownback

Kris W. Kobach
Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State