

WHEREAS; rural communities have been an integral part of our state’s cultural and economic livelihood since its founding, establishing Wisconsin as a leader in agriculture, tourism, and industry; and

WHEREAS; as of 2020, more than 1.5 million Wisconsinites, or about a quarter of our state’s population, live in rural counties; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin’s rural communities and residents have always demonstrated both leadership and resilience in response to economic and natural adversities, and this has only been underscored by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS; our state’s rural healthcare systems, composed of thousands of healthcare professionals and providers working in rural hospitals, clinics, and emergency medical service agencies, have risen to the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and continue to save lives and keep folks safe by providing high-quality care to residents of rural areas, as well as those who work in and visit them; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, we recognize the highly trained professionals and skilled workers who make up our state’s rural healthcare system for their selflessness, sacrifice, empathy, and commitment to care; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins its healthcare partner organizations in celebrating the individuals, institutions, and programs that work to overcome the unique challenges of delivering rural health services, both during ordinary times and under the extraordinary circumstances of the past year and a half;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim November 18, 2021, as

## **RURAL HEALTH DAY**

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State