

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

**NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY IN MARYLAND
NOVEMBER 16, 2023**

- WHEREAS,** *Rural communities in Maryland and throughout the United States are great places to live, work and volunteer; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Nearly 61 million people (19.7% of the population) and 86% of the country's land area are considered rural; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The health and well-being of our citizens are of utmost importance to our great state; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Rural communities often face accessibility issues, healthcare provider shortages, transportation barriers, an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of uninsured and underinsured citizens; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Rural communities are resilient, resourceful, innovative, and collaborative, addressing local challenges with creative solutions; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Rural America is a great place for dedicated health professionals to deliver essential health services and provide comprehensive, individualized care; and*
- WHEREAS,** *National Rural Health Day, founded by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health and celebrated annually on the third Thursday in November, serves as a reminder of the unique needs and opportunities that rural communities face in accessing quality healthcare services.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wes Moore, Governor of the State of Maryland, do hereby proclaim November 16, 2023, as NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY in Maryland and encourage all our citizens to celebrate the "Power of Rural" by recognizing the vital contributions and achievements of healthcare providers, organizations, and other stakeholders serving rural areas.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 16th day of November
Two Thousand and twenty-three

Wes Moore
Governor

Oruna Miller
Lt. Governor

Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State