STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *rural communities across Illinois and throughout the United States are great places to live, work, and volunteer; and,*

WHEREAS, *the healthcare needs of rural citizens are as unique as the communities in which they live and cannot be addressed by utilizing a "one-size-fits-all" approach; and,*

WHEREAS, *rural communities face unique challenges, including limited access to healthcare services, shortages of healthcare providers, transportation barriers, an aging population with higher rates of chronic illness, and a larger proportion of uninsured or underinsured residents; and,*

WHEREAS, *rural communities demonstrate exceptional resilience, resourcefulness, innovation, and collaboration in addressing these challenges with creative solutions; and,*

WHEREAS, *the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health established and recognizes National Rural Health Day on the third Thursday of November each year since 2011 in collaboration with partners such as the National Rural Health Association; and,*

WHEREAS, *the Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Rural Health, serves as the voice of rural residents by providing training, education, and technical assistance for rural providers, hospitals, and other essential services for underserved residents throughout Illinois;*

THEREFORE, *I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2026, as* ***National Rural Health Day*** *in Illinois and encourage everyone to join me in celebrating the "Power of Rural" and recognizing the vital contributions and achievements of healthcare providers, organizations, and other stakeholders serving in rural areas.*

In Witness Whereof, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield, this SECOND *day of* NOVEMBER*, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and* TWENTY-SIX*, and of the State of Illinois, two hundred and* SEVENTH*.*

Alexi Giannoulias
SECRETARY OF STATE

GOVERNOR