

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, rural communities in South Dakota and throughout the United States are great places to live, work, raise families, and serve one another; and,

Whereas, in South Dakota, approximately 43% of South Dakotans live in rural areas. Of our 66 counties, 30 are classified as rural and 34 are frontier, each one representing the independent spirit and strong sense of community that define our state; and,

Whereas, the health and well-being of our citizens are of utmost importance to our great state. Ensuring access to quality healthcare for every community, no matter how remote, is essential to our shared prosperity; and,

Whereas, rural communities continue to face unique challenges, including healthcare workforce shortages, transportation barriers, limited access to specialized care, and aging populations with higher rates of chronic illness; and,

Whereas, despite these challenges, rural South Dakotans exemplify resilience, resourcefulness, and determination. Our rural communities work together to create innovative, community-driven solutions that strengthen healthcare access and improve quality of life; and,

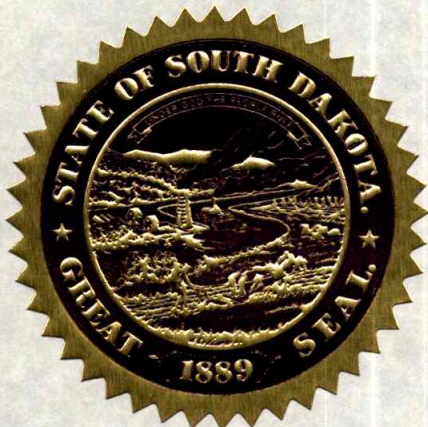
Whereas, South Dakota's healthcare professionals, emergency responders, and community partners serve with dedication and compassion, often going above and beyond to care for their neighbors; and,

Whereas, I am proud to live and work in a state where rural life is not only our heritage but our strength, and where we continue to invest in and celebrate the "Power of Rural:"

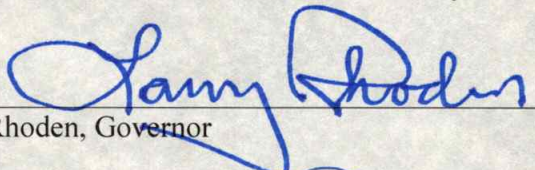
Now, Therefore, I, Larry Rhoden, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 20, 2025, as

RURAL HEALTH DAY

in South Dakota and encourage all citizens to join me in honoring the vital contributions of those who serve and support the health of our rural communities.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourth Day of November in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.


Larry Rhoden, Governor

Attest:


Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State