

*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, and volunteer; and,

*Whereas*, the South Dakota Department of Health's Office of Rural Health's mission is to improve the delivery of health services to rural and medically underserved communities; and,

*Whereas*, the health and well-being of our citizens are of the 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 underinsured citizens; and,

*Whereas*, the Office of Rural Health assists hospitals and clinics, promotes healthcare careers, and coordinates programs to recruit healthcare professionals; 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 was founded by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health. It is celebrated annually on the third Thursday of November and serves as a reminder of the unique needs and opportunities that rural communities face in accessing quality healthcare services:

*Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem*, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 16, 2023, as

**RURAL HEALTH DAY**

in South Dakota and encourage citizens to join me in celebrating the "Power of Rural" and recognizing the vital contributions and achievements of healthcare providers, organizations, and other stakeholders serving rural areas.



*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 Twenty-fifth Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

*Kristi Noem*  
Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:

*Monae L. Johnson*  
Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State