

## STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

## Proclamation

WHEREAS, rural communities in New Mexico 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 the utmost importance to our great state; and

WHEREAS, rural communities often face accessibility issues, healthcare provider shortages, transportation barriers, aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of un- and underinsured citizens; and

WHEREAS, rural communities are resilient, resourceful, innovative, and collaborative, when 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 (NOSORH) and celebrated annually on the third Thursday of November; and

**WHEREAS**, this serves as a reminder of the unique needs and opportunities that rural communities face in accessing quality healthcare services.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim November 21, 2024, as:

"National Rural Health Day"

Attest

Maggie Toulouse Oliver

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Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Mexico.

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Governor