STATE OF ARIZONA PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, rural communities in Arizona and throughout the United States are wonderful places to live and work – they are places where people know each other, listen to each other, and work together to benefit the community; and

WHEREAS, Arizona's rural population is growing at a rapid rate; and

WHEREAS, rural Arizona is an important economic engine that helps to drive Arizona as a national leader in its recognition and contributions to rural residents; and

WHEREAS, rural residents possess a selfless, creative, community-minded spirit; and

WHEREAS, meeting the unique healthcare needs of those residents is constantly evolving, as rural communities face accessibility issues, a shortage of healthcare providers, an aging population, and larger percentages of uninsured and underinsured citizens; and

WHEREAS, ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural Arizona; and

WHEREAS, rural health education services are vital to preparing a rural health workforce; and

WHEREAS, rural hospitals and rural clinics are often the economic foundation of these communities in addition to being their primary providers of healthcare; and

WHEREAS, rural healthcare systems create valuable opportunities that offer more comprehensive, compassionate, patient-centered, and holistic care to patients; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Rural Health Association plays a distinct and critical role by leading community and state-wide efforts to address the unique healthcare needs of our rural citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Rural Health Association supports pioneering partnerships that promote the health and wellbeing of rural Arizona; and

WHEREAS, Arizona's rural residents, the health care systems that serve them, and the friends who advocate for them are recognized herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim November 21, 2019, as

RURAL HEALTH DAY

and further encourage citizens to recognize the unique contributions and selfless "can do" attitudes of our rural communities, the unique health care needs, opportunities that exist in these communities, and the Arizona Rural Health Association for the valuable representation and support it provides to rural people and rural services that address the needs and opportunities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this fifteenth day of October in the year Two Thousand and Nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Fourth.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE