

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, rural health programs and services are vital to a strong, successful health care system that benefits all of our citizens, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic strata; and

WHEREAS, rural Americans face a unique combination of factors not found in urban areas that create disparities in health care, including economic factors, cultural and social differences, educational shortcomings, and the sheer isolation of living in remote areas; and

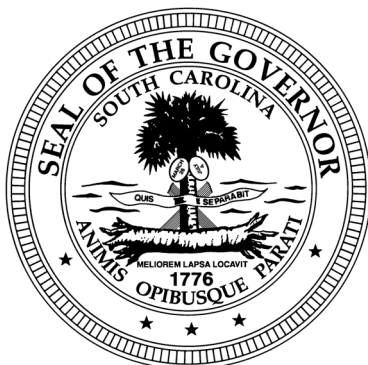
WHEREAS, rural areas have about half as many physicians as urban areas to serve a given population base, and nearly 90% of all specialists practice in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, Rural Health Week honors health care providers throughout the Palmetto State who provide primary care and preventive services to our rural and underserved communities, while spotlighting the challenges that rural areas face in accessing quality health care services.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 15 - 21, 2004, as

RURAL HEALTH WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to ensure access, quality, and equity in rural health services.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA