

# 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 residents, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic strata; and

**WHEREAS,** working to improve the availability of quality, affordable health services, rural health care providers face a unique combination of factors not found in urban areas, including economic conditions, cultural and social differences, and educational shortcomings, that create disparities in health care; 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, leaving many rural South Carolinians without convenient access to quality health care; and

**WHEREAS,** Rural Health Week honors health care providers throughout the Palmetto State that 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 March 5 - 11, 2006, 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, which appears to read "Mark Sanford".

**MARK SANFORD**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**