STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Minnesota's rural communities are exceptional places to live, work, and volunteer; and

WHEREAS: Rural hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, and emergency medical services are essential to ensuring the health of rural Minnesotans and are major employers and economic drivers in Greater Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act is threatening the rural healthcare system, with profound implications for clinicians, hospitals, and clinics; sweeping reductions in federal Medicaid spending is resulting in loss of health coverage for millions of Americans, straining rural health systems, threatening closures of rural clinics, and negatively impacting the health and well-being of individuals in rural communities; and

WHEREAS: Amid federal cuts, Minnesota is committed to building and maintaining a resilient rural healthcare system and through targeted investments and effectively using remaining federal funds, the Walz-Flanagan Administration has advanced rural health initiatives including an allocation of $30 million for rural emergency medical services, and $6 million to establish an alternative emergency medical services response model pilot program; and

WHEREAS: Meeting the healthcare needs of Minnesota's rural residents requires commitment, innovation, and resourcefulness by public and private sectors working together in partnership; and

WHEREAS: Rural healthcare practitioners provide whole person care to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in their communities; and

WHEREAS: To recruit and retain future rural healthcare professionals, we must continue to provide and expand accessible pathways to education, as well as support the current healthcare providers who help rural Minnesotans live healthier lives; and

WHEREAS: Rural Health Day provides an opportunity to recognize the essential contributions of rural communities and their healthcare providers and to celebrate the partnerships that advance access, equity, and wellness across Minnesota

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 19, 2026, as:

RURAL HEALTH DAY

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 18th day of November.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE