

# *State of South Carolina*

## *Proclamation*

### *by*

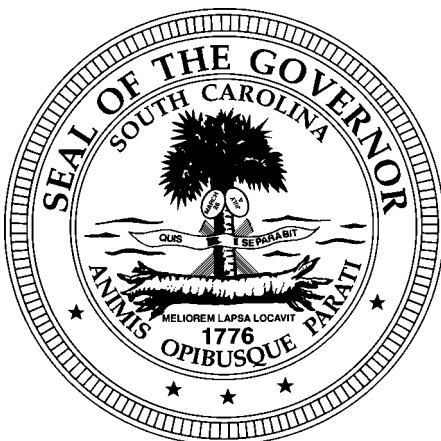
## *Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** rural health programs and services are essential to a strong, successful health care system that benefits all of our citizens, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic strata; and
- WHEREAS,** rural health care providers throughout the Palmetto State work daily to improve the availability of quality, affordable health care in our medically underserved areas; and
- WHEREAS,** unfortunately, many rural South Carolinians lack access to quality health care services as is evidenced by higher rates of Type II Diabetes and Pneumonia hospitalization and congestive heart failure in rural as opposed to urban areas; and
- WHEREAS,** working together to increase awareness of rural health care needs and to promote partnerships to provide services that ensure optimal care for psychosocial, physical, mental and basic life-sustaining needs in rural areas helps ensure the continued well-being and quality of life of citizens throughout the Palmetto State.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 27 – March 1, 2002, as

## **RURAL HEALTH WEEK**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the importance of adequate, appropriate, and accessible rural health services to the quality of life of the citizens of the Palmetto State.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Hodges".

**Jim Hodges**  
**Governor**  
**State of South Carolina**