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Senate of Pennsylvania

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**OCT 25 2011**

**TO:** ALL SENATORS  
**FROM:** Senator Patricia H. Vance *PHV*  
**DATE:** October 24, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** Memo #26 – Rural Health Week

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In the near future, I plan to introduce a Senate Resolution declaring November 13-19, 2011, as Rural Health Week in Pennsylvania.

In 2010, 3.5 million people lived in Pennsylvania's 48 rural counties. This is about 27 percent of the state's 12.7 million residents. By 2030, the population of Pennsylvania's rural counties is projected to increase 3 percent to 3.57 million people.

Those living in rural counties face unique health care challenges. Rural counties have fewer primary care physicians than urban counties. In 2008, there was one primary care physician for every 1,501 residents in rural counties. This is compared to one primary care physician for every 981 residents in urban counties. Rural counties also have fewer dentists. In 2009, there was one practicing dentist for every 2,662 residents in rural counties. Urban counties had one for every 1,814 residents.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this resolution, please contact my office at 787-8524 or email Tracy Polovick at [tpolovick@pasen.gov](mailto:tpolovick@pasen.gov).