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- ✚ The Rural Health Association of Tennessee (RHAT) is a not-for-profit organization of over 1,000 individuals including over 70 organizations committed to improving the health of rural Tennesseans by providing leadership on rural issues through advocacy, communication, education, and legislation.
- ✚ We are the only association in Tennessee that encompasses such a broad scope of concerns for the health of rural Tennessee citizens. We bring together hospitals, providers, health care agencies, Coordinated School Health and others who support quality, cost-effective health care services for our rural citizens of all ages.
- ✚ One of RHAT's first projects was to examine the percentages of primary care providers graduated from Tennessee's medical schools that remained to practice in Tennessee. As a result, the Tennessee Rural Health Recruitment and Retention Center d/b/a The Rural Partnership was initiated with the four medical schools. Thus far, they have placed 12 health professionals in underserved areas of Tennessee.
- ✚ The RHAT focus, this year, during this time of economic challenges, is to protect the rural health infrastructure. Continued support and operations of the following programs in rural communities is essential and a strong RHAT focus.
 - **Coordinated School Health Model**
 - **Current Critical Access Hospital Funding and Programs**
 - **Post-graduate Medical Education Funding**
 - **Cancer Control Programs**
 - **Tobacco Prevention and Control Programs**
 - **Safety Net Funding**
 - **Strengthening the Non-Smoker Protection Law**
 - **Rural Emergency Medical Services**