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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on the accessibility of addiction and mental health care providers and services for farmers and ranchers who have been impacted by severe and persistent drought, extreme weather events, instability in the commodities market, misinformation targeting consumers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. NEGUSE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on the accessibility of addiction and mental health care providers and services for farmers and ranchers who have been impacted by severe and persistent drought, extreme weather events, instability in the commodities market, misinformation targeting consumers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Agricultural Access
3 to Addiction and Mental Health Care Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDING.**

5 Congress finds that farmers and ranchers face nu-
6 merous challenges, which can have a significant impact on
7 the mental health and well being of such farmers and
8 ranchers, including—

9 (1) severe and persistent drought;

10 (2) extreme weather events;

11 (3) instability in the commodities market; and

12 (4) misinformation targeting consumers.

13 **SEC. 3. STUDY ON ACCESSIBILITY OF ADDICTION AND MEN-**
14 **TAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND SERV-**
15 **ICES FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS.**

16 (a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Agri-
17 culture, acting through the Director of the National Insti-
18 tute of Food and Agriculture (in this section referred to
19 as the “Secretary”), shall conduct a study on the accessi-
20 bility of addiction and mental health care providers and
21 services for farmers and ranchers who have been impacted
22 by severe and persistent drought, extreme weather events,
23 instability in the commodities market, misinformation tar-
24 geting consumers, and related factors.

1 (b) TOPICS ADDRESSED.—The study conducted
2 under subsection (a) shall include an examination of the
3 following:

4 (1) The availability and accessibility in rural
5 areas of addiction and mental health care providers
6 and services that are trained and dedicated to serve
7 the needs of farmers, ranchers, agricultural workers,
8 and their family members.

9 (2) Barriers and challenges faced by farmers
10 and ranchers in accessing addiction and mental
11 health care and health and wellness resources, in-
12 cluding financial, geographic, and cultural barriers.

13 (3) Identification of best practices and success-
14 ful programs at the State and local level that can be
15 replicated at the Federal level to address addiction
16 and mental health care needs in agricultural commu-
17 nities including the following:

18 (A) Hiring and training addiction and
19 mental health care professionals with expertise
20 in working with agricultural communities.

21 (B) Accessing cultural competency training
22 for addiction and mental health care profes-
23 sionals that lack expertise in working with agri-
24 cultural communities.

1 (C) Developing certificate programs for
2 paraprofessionals and coaches to offer peer-to-
3 peer support programming.

4 (D) Researching effective curricula for
5 youth and young adults to be offered in rural
6 schools.

7 (E) Expanding telehealth and telemedicine
8 services to improve access to care in rural
9 areas.

10 (F) Developing outreach and educational
11 programs to reduce stigma and increase aware-
12 ness of mental health issues among farmers and
13 ranchers.

14 (G) Enhancing coordination and collabora-
15 tion between existing mental health providers
16 and agricultural organizations.

17 (H) Conducting research and evaluation to
18 measure the effectiveness of addiction and men-
19 tal health care services provided to farmers and
20 ranchers.

21 (4) Recommendations for improving the accessi-
22 bility of addiction and mental health care for farm-
23 ers and ranchers.

24 (5) The feasibility of providing funding for 6
25 reimbursable therapy sessions, by providers that are

1 trained and dedicated to serve the needs of farmers,
2 ranchers and their family members, through the
3 Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network under
4 section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
5 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936).

6 (c) COLLABORATION AND CONSULTATION.—The Sec-
7 retary shall collaborate and consult with relevant Federal
8 agencies, State departments of agriculture, mental health
9 organizations, agricultural organizations, and other stake-
10 holders in conducting the study.

11 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
12 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture
13 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House
14 of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
15 trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing the
16 findings of the study under subsection (a).

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
19 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029.