

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5259

To amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to reauthorize the farm and ranch stress assistance network, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2018

Mr. EMMER (for himself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. FASO, and Mr. NOLAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to reauthorize the farm and ranch stress assistance network, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stemming the Tide
5 of Rural Economic Stress and Suicide Act” or the
6 “STRESS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FARM AND RANCH**
2 **STRESS ASSISTANCE NETWORK.**

3 Section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
4 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “coordination
6 with the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
7 shall make competitive grants to support cooperative
8 programs between State cooperative extension serv-
9 ices and nonprofit organizations” and inserting
10 “consultation with the Secretary of Health and
11 Human Services, shall make competitive grants to
12 State cooperative extension services and Indian
13 Tribes to support programs with nonprofit organiza-
14 tions in order”;

15 (2) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “Inter-
17 net” before “websites”;

18 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
19 ing the following:

20 “(2) training for individuals who may assist
21 farmers in crisis, including programs and work-
22 shops;” and

23 (C) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, in-
24 cluding the dissemination of information and
25 materials” before the semicolon at the end;

1 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “to enable the
2 State cooperative extension services” and inserting
3 “or Indian tribes, as applicable, to”;

4 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “fiscal years”
5 and all that follows and inserting “fiscal years 2019
6 through 2023”; and

7 (5) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
8 section (e) and inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(d) OVERSIGHT AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary,
11 in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human
12 Services, shall review and evaluate the stress assistance
13 programs carried out pursuant to this section.

14 “(1) PROGRAM REVIEW.—Not later than 2
15 years after the date on which grants are first pro-
16 vided under this section, and annually thereafter, the
17 Secretary shall—

18 “(A) review the programs funded under a
19 grant made under this section to evaluate the
20 effectiveness of the services offered through
21 such a program and suggest alternative services
22 not offered by a grant recipient that would be
23 appropriate for behavioral health services; and

24 “(B) submit to Congress, and make avail-
25 able on the public Internet website of the De-

1 partment of Agriculture, a report containing
2 the results of the review conducted under sub-
3 paragraph (A) and a description of the services
4 provided through programs funded under such
5 a grant.

6 “(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—In making the re-
7 port under paragraph (1) publicly available, the Sec-
8 retary shall take such steps as may be necessary to
9 ensure that such report does not contain any infor-
10 mation that would identify any person who received
11 services under a program funded under a grant
12 made under this section.”.

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