

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the mental health challenges in the Hoosier farming community.

CRIDER

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



Introduced

First Regular Session 122nd General Assembly (2021)

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RESOLUTION No. _____**

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the mental
2 health challenges in the Hoosier farming community.

3 *Whereas, American farmers contribute over \$133 billion to*
4 *the nation's annual gross domestic product;*

5 *Whereas, The life of a farmer can be demanding and*
6 *mentally taxing, as unpredictable weather and economic*
7 *uncertainty can bring on stress, anxiety, and depression;*

8 *Whereas, Suicide in rural areas is a serious, troubling*
9 *issue, and according to the United States Centers for Disease*
10 *Control and Prevention, farmers are at an increased risk of*
11 *dying by suicide compared to other occupations;*

12 *Whereas, The opioid crisis continues to plague rural*
13 *communities, where 74% of farmers and farmworkers report*
14 *that they have been impacted by the crisis, and 75% of farmers*
15 *believe it is easy to access opioids without a prescription;*

16 *Whereas, Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, two out of*
17 *three farmers report that they have experienced greater mental*
18 *health challenges;*

19 *Whereas, In 2018, the University of Michigan studied the*
20 *lack of access to mental health care in rural areas, finding that*
21 *there are about three mental health care professionals per*
22 *100,000 residents in rural counties compared to ten mental*
23 *health care professionals per 100,000 residents in urban*
24 *counties;*



1 *Whereas, The social stigma placed on mental health care*
2 *among farming communities poses another significant barrier*
3 *to effective treatment;*

4 *Whereas, Farming groups, such as the American Farm*
5 *Bureau Federation and the National Farmers Union, have*
6 *partnered to increase awareness for the mental health*
7 *challenges facing farmers and ranchers, help farmers identify*
8 *and manage sources of stress, and reduce the stigma*
9 *surrounding mental health; and*

10 *Whereas, The Indiana General Assembly's recognition of*
11 *the gravity of mental health issues in Hoosier farming*
12 *communities is necessary to help promote awareness and*
13 *advance mental health treatment: Therefore,*

14 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*
15 *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives*
16 *concurring:*

17 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly
18 recognizes the mental health challenges in the farming
19 community.

20 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
21 to transmit copies of this Resolution to Jordyn Wickard.

