

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4382

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

JUNE 27, 2023

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

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

1 **SEC. 2. FINDING.**

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

- 6 (1) severe and persistent drought;
7 (2) extreme weather events;
8 (3) instability in the commodities market; and
9 (4) misinformation targeting consumers.

10 **SEC. 3. STUDY ON ACCESSIBILITY OF ADDICTION AND MEN-**
11 **TAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND SERV-**
12 **ICES FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS.**

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

22 (b) **TOPICS ADDRESSED.**—The study conducted
23 under subsection (a) shall include an examination of the
24 following:

- 25 (1) The availability and accessibility in rural
26 areas of addiction and mental health care providers

1 and services that are trained and dedicated to serve
2 the needs of farmers, ranchers, agricultural workers,
3 and their family members.

4 (2) Barriers and challenges faced by farmers
5 and ranchers in accessing addiction and mental
6 health care and health and wellness resources, in-
7 cluding financial, geographic, and cultural barriers.

8 (3) Identification of best practices and success-
9 ful programs at the State and local level that can be
10 replicated at the Federal level to address addiction
11 and mental health care needs in agricultural commu-
12 nities including the following:

13 (A) Hiring and training addiction and
14 mental health care professionals with expertise
15 in working with agricultural communities.

16 (B) Accessing cultural competency training
17 for addiction and mental health care profes-
18 sionals that lack expertise in working with agri-
19 cultural communities.

20 (C) Developing certificate programs for
21 paraprofessionals and coaches to offer peer-to-
22 peer support programming.

23 (D) Researching effective curricula for
24 youth and young adults to be offered in rural
25 schools.

1 (E) Expanding telehealth and telemedicine
2 services to improve access to care in rural
3 areas.

4 (F) Developing outreach and educational
5 programs to reduce stigma and increase aware-
6 ness of mental health issues among farmers and
7 ranchers.

8 (G) Enhancing coordination and collabora-
9 tion between existing mental health providers
10 and agricultural organizations.

11 (H) Conducting research and evaluation to
12 measure the effectiveness of addiction and men-
13 tal health care services provided to farmers and
14 ranchers.

15 (4) Recommendations for improving the accessi-
16 bility of addiction and mental health care for farm-
17 ers and ranchers.

18 (5) The feasibility of providing funding for 6
19 reimbursable therapy sessions, by providers that are
20 trained and dedicated to serve the needs of farmers,
21 ranchers and their family members, through the
22 Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network under
23 section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
24 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936).

1 (c) COLLABORATION AND CONSULTATION.—The Sec-
2 retary shall collaborate and consult with relevant Federal
3 agencies, State departments of agriculture, mental health
4 organizations, agricultural organizations, and other stake-
5 holders in conducting the study.

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

12 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
14 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2027.

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