

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4603

To provide for the prioritization of projects that provide behavioral and mental health treatment services in selecting grantees under certain rural development programs, and extend the substance abuse disorder set-aside and priority under the programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2023

Ms. CARAVEO (for herself and Mr. FINSTAD) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To provide for the prioritization of projects that provide behavioral and mental health treatment services in selecting grantees under certain rural development programs, and extend the substance abuse disorder set-aside and priority under the programs.

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 “Rural Wellness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE BE-**
2 **HAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH TREAT-**
3 **MENT SERVICES IN SELECTING GRANTEES**
4 **UNDER CERTAIN RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRO-**
5 **GRAMS; EXTENSION OF SUBSTANCE USE DIS-**
6 **ORDER SET-ASIDE AND PRIORITY UNDER**
7 **THE PROGRAMS.**

8 Section 6101(a)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement
9 Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 4726) is amended—

10 (1) by striking “2025” and inserting “2028”;

11 (2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “20” each
12 place it appears and inserting “17”;

13 (3) in subparagraph (B)—

14 (A) in clause (ii)—

15 (i) by inserting “or (ii)” before “that
16 receives”; and

17 (ii) by inserting “or for behavioral
18 and mental health treatment, respectively”
19 before the period; and

20 (B) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause
21 (iii) and inserting after clause (i) the following:

22 “(ii) BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL
23 HEALTH TREATMENT SELECTION PRI-
24 ORITY.—In selecting recipients of direct
25 loans or grants for the development of es-
26 sential community facilities under section

1 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and
2 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
3 1926(a)), the Secretary shall give priority
4 to entities eligible for those direct loans or
5 grants—

6 “(I) to develop facilities to pro-
7 vide behavioral and mental health
8 services such as—

9 “(aa) prevention services;

10 “(bb) treatment services;

11 “(cc) recovery services; or

12 “(dd) any combination of
13 those services; and

14 “(II) that employ staff that have
15 appropriate expertise and training in
16 how to identify and treat individuals
17 with behavioral and mental health
18 concerns.”; and

19 (4) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(D) RURAL HEALTH AND SAFETY EDU-
21 CATION PROGRAMS; BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL
22 HEALTH SELECTION PRIORITY.—In making
23 grants under section 502(i) of the Rural Devel-
24 opment Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2662(i)), the
25 Secretary shall give priority to an applicant

1 that will use the grant for behavioral and men-
2 tal health education and treatment.”.

○