

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8149

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 27, 2026

Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. VAN ORDEN) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## 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 addressed 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 2026 through 2029.

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