

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4945

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to
establish a Rural Health Liaison.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself and Mr. LAMALFA) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization
Act of 1994 to establish a Rural Health Liaison.

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 Health Liaison
5 Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. RURAL HEALTH LIAISON.**

7 Subtitle C of title II of the Department of Agriculture
8 Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6941 et seq.) is
9 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 236. RURAL HEALTH LIAISON.**

2 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall establish
3 in the Department the position of Rural Health Liaison.

4 “(b) DUTIES.—The Rural Health Liaison shall—

5 “(1) in consultation with the Department of
6 Health and Human Services, coordinate the role of
7 the Department with respect to rural health;

8 “(2) integrate across the Department the stra-
9 tegic planning and activities related to rural health;

10 “(3) improve communication related to rural
11 health within the Department and between Federal
12 agencies;

13 “(4) advocate on behalf of the health care and
14 relevant infrastructure needs in rural areas;

15 “(5) provide to stakeholders, potential grant ap-
16 plicants, Federal agencies, State agencies, Indian
17 Tribes, private organizations, and academic institu-
18 tions, relevant data and information, including the
19 eligibility requirements for, and availability and out-
20 comes of, Department programs applicable to the
21 advancement of rural health;

22 “(6) maintain communication with public
23 health, medical, occupational safety, and tele-
24 communication associations, research entities, and
25 other stakeholders in order to ensure the Depart-

1 ment is aware of current and upcoming issues re-
2 lated to rural health;

3 “(7) consult on programs, pilot projects, re-
4 search, training and other affairs related to rural
5 health at the Department and other Federal agen-
6 cies;

7 “(8) provide expertise on rural health to sup-
8 port the activities of the Secretary as Chair of the
9 Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural
10 Prosperity; and

11 “(9) provide technical assistance and guidance
12 with respect to activities related to rural health to
13 the outreach, extension, and county offices of the
14 Department.”.

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