

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to reauthorize the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. ERNST) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to reauthorize the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.

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 “Farmers First Act of
5 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FARM AND RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE NETWORK.**

7 Section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
8 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting “, in-
10 cluding crisis lines” before the semicolon at the end;

1 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “\$10,000,000
2 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
3 serting “\$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024
4 through 2028”; and

5 (3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(e) REFERRALS TO PROVIDERS.—As part of the ef-
8 forts of the recipient of a grant under subsection (a) to
9 connect individuals to behavioral health counseling and
10 wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to
11 a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance use
12 treatments and supports, when applicable, the grant re-
13 cipient may establish referral relationships with—

14 “(1) certified community behavioral health clin-
15 ics described in section 223 of the Protecting Access
16 to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note;
17 Public Law 113–93);

18 “(2) health centers (as defined in section
19 330(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
20 254b(a)));

21 “(3) rural health clinics (as defined in section
22 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
23 1395x(aa)));

24 “(4) Federally qualified health centers (as de-
25 fined in that section); and

1 “(5) critical access hospitals (as defined in sec-
2 tion 1861(mm) of the Social Security Act (42
3 U.S.C. 1395x(mm))).”.