

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To provide for a study on the accessibility of substance use disorder treatment and mental health care providers and services for farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To provide for a study on the accessibility of substance use disorder treatment and mental health care providers and services for farmers and ranchers, 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 Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Mental Health
6 Care Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON ACCESSIBILITY OF SUBSTANCE USE DIS-**
2 **ORDER TREATMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH**
3 **CARE PROVIDERS AND SERVICES FOR FARM-**
4 **ERS AND RANCHERS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
7 of the United States shall—

8 (1) conduct a study on the accessibility of sub-
9 stance use disorder treatment and mental health
10 care providers and services for farmers and ranch-
11 ers; and

12 (2) submit a report containing the results of
13 the study conducted under paragraph (1) to—

14 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture;

15 (B) the Secretary of Health and Human
16 Services;

17 (C) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
18 tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

19 (D) the Committee on Health, Education,
20 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

21 (E) the Committee on Finance of the Sen-
22 ate;

23 (F) the Committee on Agriculture of the
24 House of Representatives;

25 (G) the Committee on Energy and Com-
26 merce of the House of Representatives; and

1 (H) the Committee on Ways and Means of
2 the House of Representatives.

3 (b) TOPICS ADDRESSED.—The study conducted
4 under subsection (a) shall include an examination of the
5 following topics:

6 (1) The availability and accessibility in rural
7 areas of substance use disorder treatment and men-
8 tal health care providers and services that are
9 trained and dedicated to serve the needs of farmers,
10 ranchers, agricultural workers, and their family
11 members.

12 (2) Barriers and challenges faced by farmers
13 and ranchers in accessing substance use disorder
14 treatment and mental health care and health and
15 wellness resources, including financial, geographic,
16 and cultural barriers.

17 (3) Identification of best practices and success-
18 ful programs at the State and local levels that can
19 be replicated at the Federal level to address sub-
20 stance use disorder treatment and mental health
21 care needs in agricultural communities, including the
22 following:

23 (A) Hiring and training of substance use
24 disorder treatment and mental health care pro-

1 professionals with expertise in working with agri-
2 cultural communities.

3 (B) Accessing cultural competency training
4 for substance use disorder treatment and men-
5 tal health care professionals that lack expertise
6 in working with agricultural communities.

7 (C) Developing certificate programs for
8 paraprofessionals and coaches to offer peer-to-
9 peer support programming.

10 (D) Researching effective curricula for
11 youth and young adults to be offered in rural
12 schools.

13 (E) Expanding telehealth and telemedicine
14 services to improve access to care in rural
15 areas.

16 (F) Developing outreach and educational
17 programs to reduce stigma and increase aware-
18 ness of mental health issues among farmers and
19 ranchers.

20 (G) Enhancing coordination and collabora-
21 tion between existing mental health providers
22 and agricultural organizations.

23 (H) Conducting research and evaluation to
24 measure the effectiveness of substance use dis-

1 order treatment and mental health care services
2 provided to farmers and ranchers.

3 (4) Utilization of, and best practices among
4 grantees through, the Farm and Ranch Stress As-
5 sistance Network under section 7522 of the Food,
6 Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
7 5936).

8 (5) Recommendations for improving the accessi-
9 bility and utilization of substance use disorder treat-
10 ment and mental health care for farmers and ranch-
11 ers.