

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3751

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish and provide for the administration of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 4, 2007

Mr. BOSWELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish and provide for the administration of 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 “Farm and Ranch  
5 Stress Assistance Network Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) agriculture continues to be highly stressful,  
9 subject to the vagaries of weather, changing market

1 conditions, and other factors beyond the control of  
2 agricultural producers;

3 (2) the suicide rate of participants in the agri-  
4 cultural sector is twice as high as the rate of the  
5 general population;

6 (3) farmers, ranchers, farm workers, and their  
7 families, and communities dependent on agriculture  
8 are twice as likely as the general population to lack  
9 health insurance;

10 (4) behavioral healthcare providers are less  
11 available in agricultural regions; and

12 (5) due to the factors described in paragraphs  
13 (1) through (4), together with other factors, partici-  
14 pants in the agricultural sector constitute a health  
15 disparity group in need of specialized behavioral  
16 health programs that are affordable, available as  
17 needed, and culturally appropriate.

18 **SEC. 3. FARM AND RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE NETWORK.**

19 Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
20 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.) is amended by add-  
21 ing at the end the following:

22 **“SEC. 379E. FARM AND RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE NET-**  
23 **WORK.**

24 **“(a) DEFINITIONS.—**In this section:

1           “(1) CORPORATION.—The term ‘Corporation’  
2 means AgriWellness, Inc., a nonprofit organization.

3           “(2) NETWORK.—The term ‘Network’ means  
4 the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network es-  
5 tablished under subsection (b)(1).

6           “(b) NETWORK.—

7           “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—As soon as practicable  
8 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-  
9 retary, in cooperation with the Secretary of Health  
10 and Human Services, shall establish a network, to  
11 be known as the ‘Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance  
12 Network’.

13           “(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Network  
14 shall be to provide behavioral health programs to  
15 participants in the agricultural sector in the States  
16 of—

17                   “(A) Iowa;

18                   “(B) Kansas;

19                   “(C) Minnesota;

20                   “(D) Nebraska;

21                   “(E) North Dakota;

22                   “(F) South Dakota; and

23                   “(G) Wisconsin.

24           “(3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall  
25 offer to enter into a contract with the Corporation

1 under which the Corporation, in consultation with  
2 the Secretary, shall administer the Network.

3 “(c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In administering the Net-  
5 work, the Corporation shall provide grants to States  
6 to carry out pilot projects to achieve the purpose of  
7 the Network.

8 “(2) TERM.—The term of a grant provided  
9 under this subsection shall be 2 years.

10 “(3) EVALUATION.—Not later than 2 years  
11 after the date on which grants are provided under  
12 paragraph (1), the Corporation shall provide for a  
13 comprehensive third-party evaluation of, and submit  
14 to Congress a report describing the results of the  
15 evaluation, the extent to which the purpose of the  
16 Network has been achieved by each project that re-  
17 ceives a grant under this subsection.

18 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
19 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
20 essary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years  
21 2008 through 2012.”.

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