

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1906

To provide for the prioritization of projects that provide behavioral and mental health treatment services in selecting grantees under certain rural development programs, and extend the substance abuse disorder set-aside and priority under the programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2025

Ms. BUDZINSKI (for herself, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. TAYLOR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To provide for the prioritization of projects that provide behavioral and mental health treatment services in selecting grantees under certain rural development programs, and extend the substance abuse disorder set-aside and priority under the programs.

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 Wellness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE BE-**
 2 **HAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH TREAT-**
 3 **MENT SERVICES IN SELECTING GRANTEES**
 4 **UNDER CERTAIN RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRO-**
 5 **GRAMS; EXTENSION OF SUBSTANCE USE DIS-**
 6 **ORDER SET-ASIDE AND PRIORITY UNDER**
 7 **THE PROGRAMS.**

8 Section 6101(a)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement
 9 Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 4726) is amended—

- 10 (1) by striking “2025” and inserting “2029”;
- 11 (2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “20” each
 12 place it appears and inserting “17”;
- 13 (3) in subparagraph (B)—
- 14 (A) in clause (ii)—
- 15 (i) by inserting “or (ii)” before “that
 16 receives”; and
- 17 (ii) by inserting “or for behavioral
 18 and mental health treatment, respectively”
 19 before the period; and
- 20 (B) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause
 21 (iii) and inserting after clause (i) the following:
- 22 “(ii) BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL
 23 HEALTH TREATMENT SELECTION PRI-
 24 ORITY.—In selecting recipients of direct
 25 loans or grants for the development of es-
 26 sential community facilities under section

306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)), the Secretary shall give priority to entities eligible for those direct loans or grants—

“(I) to develop facilities to provide behavioral and mental health services such as—

“(aa) prevention services;

“(bb) treatment services;

“(cc) recovery services; or

“(dd) any combination of those services; and

“(II) that employ staff that have appropriate expertise and training in how to identify and treat individuals with behavioral and mental health concerns.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) RURAL HEALTH AND SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS; BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SELECTION PRIORITY.—In making grants under section 502(i) of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2662(i)), the Secretary shall give priority to an applicant

- 1 that will use the grant for behavioral and men-
- 2 tal health education and treatment.”.

