

## 115TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

## S. 2894

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

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

May 22, 2018

Mr. Jones (for himself, Mr. Rounds, and Ms. Smith) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

## A BILL

- To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish in the Department of Agriculture the position of 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 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title II of the De-
  - 8 partment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7

1	U.S.C. 6941 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
2	the following:
3	"SEC. 236. RURAL HEALTH LIAISON.
4	"(a) Authorization.—The Secretary shall establish
5	in the Department the position of Rural Health Liaison
6	"(b) Duties.—The Rural Health Liaison shall—
7	"(1) in consultation with the Secretary of
8	Health and Human Services, coordinate the role of
9	the Department with respect to rural health;
10	"(2) integrate across the Department the stra-
11	tegic planning and activities relating to rural health
12	"(3) improve communication relating to rural
13	health within the Department and between Federal
14	agencies;
15	"(4) advocate on behalf of the health care and
16	relevant infrastructure needs in rural areas;
17	"(5) provide to stakeholders, potential grant ap-
18	plicants, Federal agencies, State agencies, Indian
19	Tribes, private organizations, and academic institu-
20	tions relevant data and information, including the
21	eligibility requirements for, and availability and out-
22	comes of, Department programs applicable to the
23	advancement of rural health;
24	"(6) maintain communication with public
25	health medical occupational safety and tele-

- communication associations, research entities, and other stakeholders to ensure that the Department is aware of current and upcoming issues relating to rural health;
- "(7) consult on programs, pilot projects, research, training, and other affairs relating to rural health at the Department and other Federal agencies;
  - "(8) provide expertise on rural health to support the activities of the Secretary as Chair of the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity; and
- "(9) provide technical assistance and guidance with respect to activities relating to rural health to the outreach, extension, and county offices of the Department.".
- 17 (b) Conforming Amendment.—Section 296(b) of 18 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 19 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by adding at the end 20 the following:
- "(9) The authority of the Secretary to establish in the Department the position of Rural Health Liaison under section 236.".

 $\bigcirc$ 

9

10

11

12