

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8482

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to support the efforts of State and local governments to provide for priority testing of essential critical food and agriculture workers with respect to COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2020

Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. LAMALFA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to support the efforts of State and local governments to provide for priority testing of essential critical food and agriculture workers with respect to COVID–19, 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 “American Food Work-
5 ers Protection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION OF COVID-19 TESTING NEEDS OF**
2 **CRITICAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE WORK-**
3 **ERS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
5 shall—

6 (1) adopt, for use by the Department of Agri-
7 culture in carrying out response efforts relating to,
8 and operations during, the COVID-19 pandemic,
9 the categorization of food and agriculture workers as
10 “essential critical infrastructure workers” identified
11 in the Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastruc-
12 ture Workforce published by the Department of
13 Homeland Security on March 28, 2020 (or a subse-
14 quent version of that guidance); and

15 (2) coordinate with the Director of the Centers
16 for Disease Control and Prevention and the Admin-
17 istrator of the Federal Emergency Management
18 Agency to support efforts of State and local govern-
19 ments to provide for—

20 (A) priority testing of essential critical in-
21 frastructure workers (as such term is used in
22 paragraph (1)) with respect to the COVID-19
23 pandemic;

24 (B) priority access to personal protective
25 equipment, sanitizers, nonmedical-grade facial
26 coverings, and other health-related or protective

1 supplies necessary to safely perform essential
2 critical infrastructure work; and

3 (C) ensure that the Federal agency respon-
4 sible for the distribution of a vaccine for
5 COVID–19 in the United States prioritizes es-
6 sential critical infrastructure workers (as such
7 term is used in paragraph (1)) for inoculation
8 with that vaccine.

9 (b) APPLICATION.—Nothing in this section requires
10 the provision of priority testing or priority access to per-
11 sonal protective equipment for essential critical infrastruc-
12 ture workers (as such term is used in subsection (a)(1))
13 to be prioritized over the provision of that testing or access
14 to personal protective equipment for other individuals who
15 are identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
16 vention or any other relevant Federal, State, or local agen-
17 cy as having a higher priority for that testing or access
18 to personal protective equipment, including—

- 19 (1) patients;
20 (2) healthcare workers; and
21 (3) first responders.

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