

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Supporting the designation of May 29, 2024, as “Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day” to raise awareness around mental health in the agricultural industry and workforce and to continue to reduce stigma associated with mental illness.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of May 29, 2024, as “Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day” to raise awareness around mental health in the agricultural industry and workforce and to continue to reduce stigma associated with mental illness.

Whereas, according to the 2022 Census of Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture, 3,370,000 producers, less than 2 percent of the population of the United States, provide high-quality food, fuel, and fiber to the United States and abroad;

Whereas, according to the Economic Policy Institute, there are approximately 1,600,000 farmworkers in the United States;

Whereas, according to the National Rural Health Association, the rate of suicide among farmers is 3.5 times greater than among the general population;

Whereas, according to the Mortality-Linked National Health Interview Survey, suicide rates among farmworkers are 1.4 times higher than rates across all other occupations;

Whereas May is “National Mental Health Awareness Month”; and

Whereas the stigma surrounding mental and behavioral health persists and acknowledging this public health crisis and creating awareness is as important as ever: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates May 29, 2024, as “Mental
3 Health Awareness in Agriculture Day” to raise
4 awareness around mental health in the agricultural
5 industry and reduce the stigma associated with men-
6 tal illness;

7 (2) recognizes the important role of individuals
8 in agriculture as providers of high-quality products
9 to the United States and the world;

10 (3) seeks to create awareness for the unique
11 challenges agricultural producers and workers face,
12 such as weather unpredictability, labor intensity and
13 shortages, farm succession, and fluctuating com-
14 modity and market prices;

1 (4) highlights the resources available through
2 the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network
3 (FRSAN) of the Department of Agriculture in con-
4 necting agricultural producers and workers to stress
5 assistance programs; and

6 (5) encourages all to observe Mental Health
7 Awareness in Agriculture Day as an opportunity to
8 promote mental well-being and awareness for cur-
9 rent and future agricultural producers and workers.