

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT**

**118–36**

**OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO**

Add at the end of title XI of division A the following:

1 **SEC. 11\_\_\_ . UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION MEN-**  
2 **TAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR WILDLAND FIRE-**  
3 **FIGHTERS.**

4 (a) **MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM.**—Subject to the  
5 availability of appropriations, not later than 180 days  
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries  
7 of the Interior and Agriculture shall establish and carry  
8 out a program for Federal wildland firefighters for mental  
9 health awareness and support. Such program shall in-  
10 clude—

11 (1) a mental health awareness campaign;

12 (2) a mental health education and training pro-  
13 gram that includes an on-boarding curriculum;

14 (3) an extensive peer-to-peer mental health sup-  
15 port network for Federal wildland firefighters and  
16 their immediate family;

17 (4) expanding the Critical Incident Stress Man-  
18 agement Program through training, developing, and

1 retaining a larger pool of qualified mental health  
2 professionals who are familiar with the experiences  
3 of the wildland firefighting workforce, and moni-  
4 toring and tracking mental health in the profession  
5 to better understand the scope of the issue and de-  
6 velop strategies to assist; and

7 (5) establish and carry out a new and distinct  
8 mental health support service specific to Federal  
9 wildland firefighters and their immediate family,  
10 with culturally relevant and trauma-informed mental  
11 health professionals who are readily available and  
12 not subject to any limit on the number of sessions  
13 or service provided.

14 (b) MENTAL HEALTH LEAVE.—Each Federal  
15 wildland firefighter shall be entitled to 7 consecutive days  
16 of leave, without loss or reduction in pay, during each cal-  
17 endar year for the purposes of maintaining mental health.  
18 Such leave may only be taken during the period beginning  
19 on June 1 and ending on October 31 of any such year.  
20 If leave is not taken under this section it expires after  
21 October 31 of the calendar year.

22 (c) WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER DEFINED.—In this  
23 Act, the term “wildland firefighter” means any temporary,  
24 seasonal, or permanent position at the Department of Ag-  
25 riculture or the Department of the Interior, or Tribal

1 Firefighters, that maintains group, emergency incident  
2 management, or fire qualifications, as established annually  
3 by the Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications  
4 published by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group,  
5 and primarily engages in or supports wildland fire man-  
6 agement activities, including forestry and rangeland tech-  
7 nicians and positions concerning aviation, engineering  
8 heavy equipment operations, dispatch, training, develop-  
9 ment and technology, or fire and fuels management.

