

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-

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OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

At the end of the bill, add the following:

1 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER MENTAL**
2 **HEALTH.**

3 (a) MENTAL HEALTH.—

4 (1) MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM.—Not later
5 than January 1, 2023, the Secretary of Agriculture
6 and the Secretary of the Interior shall establish and
7 carry out a program for Federal wildland fire-
8 fighters for mental health awareness and support.

9 Such program shall include—

10 (A) a mental health awareness campaign;

11 (B) a mental health education and training
12 program that includes an on-boarding cur-
13 rriculum;

14 (C) an extensive peer-to-peer mental health
15 support network for Federal wildland fire-
16 fighters and their immediate family;

17 (D) expanding the Critical Incident Stress
18 Management Program, developing and retaining
19 a larger pool of qualified mental health profes-

1 sionals who are familiar with the experiences of
2 the wildland firefighting workforce, and moni-
3 toring and tracking mental health in the profes-
4 sion to better understand the scope of the issue
5 and develop strategies to assist; and

6 (E) establish and carry out a new and dis-
7 tinct mental health support service specific to
8 Federal wildland firefighters and their imme-
9 diate family, with culturally relevant and trau-
10 ma informed mental health professionals who
11 are readily available, and not subject to any
12 limit on the number of sessions or service pro-
13 vided.

14 (2) MENTAL HEALTH LEAVE.—Each Federal
15 wildland firefighter shall be entitled to 7 consecutive
16 days of leave, without loss or reduction in pay, dur-
17 ing any calendar year. Leave provided under this
18 paragraph shall not—

19 (A) accumulate for use in succeeding
20 years; and

21 (B) be considered to be annual or vacation
22 leave for purposes of section 5551 or 5552 of
23 title 5, United States Code, or for any other
24 purpose.

1 (b) FEDERAL WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER.—In this
2 section, the term “Federal wildland firefighter” means
3 any temporary, seasonal, or permanent position at the De-
4 partment of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior
5 that maintains group, emergency incident management, or
6 fire qualifications, as established annually by the Stand-
7 ards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications published
8 by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, and pri-
9 marily engages in or supports wildland fire management
10 activities, including forestry and rangeland technicians
11 and positions concerning aviation, engineering heavy
12 equipment operations, or fire and fuels management.

