

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

117-54

OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

At the appropriate place in division E, insert:

1 **SECTION ____ . UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION**
2 **MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR WILDLAND**
3 **FIREFIGHTERS.**

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
19 retaining a larger pool of qualified mental health

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

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

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

21 (c) FEDERAL WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER DEFINED.—
22 In this Act, the term “Federal wildland firefighter” means
23 any temporary, seasonal, or permanent position at the De-
24 partment of Agriculture or the Department of Interior
25 that maintains group, emergency incident management, or

1 fire qualifications and primarily engages in or supports
2 wildland fire management activities, including forestry
3 and rangeland technicians and positions concerning avia-
4 tion, fire heavy equipment operations, emergency dispatch
5 communication services, or fire and fuels management.

