AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

117-54

OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

At the appropriate place in division E, insert:

SECTION 11. UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS.

(a) Mental Health Program.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture shall establish and carry out a program for Federal wildland firefighters for mental health awareness and support. Such program shall include—

(1) a mental health awareness campaign;

(2) a mental health education and training program that includes an on-boarding curriculum;

(3) an extensive peer-to-peer mental health support network for Federal wildland firefighters and their immediate family;

(4) expanding the Critical Incident Stress Management Program through training, developing, and retaining a larger pool of qualified mental health
professionals who are familiar with the experiences
of the wildland firefighting workforce, and moni-
toring and tracking mental health in the profession
to better understand the scope of the issue and de-
velop strategies to assist; and

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

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

(c) FEDERAL WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER DEFINED.—
In this Act, the term “Federal wildland firefighter” means
any temporary, seasonal, or permanent position at the De-
partment of Agriculture or the Department of Interior
that maintains group, emergency incident management, or
fire qualifications and primarily engages in or supports wildland fire management activities, including forestry and rangeland technicians and positions concerning aviation, fire heavy equipment operations, emergency dispatch communication services, or fire and fuels management.