

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-**

**22**

**OFFERED BY MS. UNDERWOOD OF ILLINOIS**

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

1 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . IMPROVING RURAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS.**

2 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—For fiscal years 2027 through  
3 2031, in selecting recipients of direct loans or grants for  
4 the development of essential community facilities under  
5 section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-  
6 opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)), the Secretary of Agri-  
7 culture shall give priority to entities eligible for the direct  
8 loans or grants to develop—

9 (1) health care facilities; or

10 (2) mental or behavioral health facilities, in-  
11 cluding certified community behavioral health clinics  
12 described in section 223 of the Protecting Access to  
13 Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note; Public  
14 Law 113–93).

15 (b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—An eligible entity referred to  
16 in subsection (a) that receives a direct loan or grant pur-  
17 suant to this section may use the direct loan or grant  
18 funds to—

- 1 (1) provide medical supplies;
- 2 (2) increase telehealth capabilities, including
- 3 underlying health care information systems;
- 4 (3) support staffing needs, subject to the condi-
- 5 tion that the eligible entity shall not use more than
- 6 25 percent of the direct loan or grant funds for this
- 7 purpose; or
- 8 (4) renovate or remodel closed health care fa-
- 9 cilities.

10 (c) LIMITATION ON OTHER REPRIORITIZATIONS.—

11 For fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary of Agri-  
12 culture shall not make any national reprioritizations with-  
13 in the Community Facilities direct loan and grant pro-  
14 grams under section 608 of the Rural Development Act  
15 of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2204b-2).

