

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-

22

OFFERED BY MS. SALINAS OF OREGON

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

1 **SEC. ____ . ASSISTANCE FOR DISTRESSED RURAL HEALTH**

2 **CARE FACILITIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Consolidated
4 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922–1936c)
5 is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 310J. ASSISTANCE FOR DISTRESSED RURAL HEALTH**

7 **CARE FACILITIES.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A health care facility, including
9 a hospital, behavioral health facility, health care clinic (in-
10 cluding a mobile health care clinic), home health agency,
11 and long-term care facility, in a rural area may use assist-
12 ance provided under section 306(a) for a community facil-
13 ity, or under section 310B, to—

14 “(1) refinance a debt obligation;

15 “(2) update a telehealth, equipment, or online
16 database; or

17 “(3) support ancillary needs, including oper-
18 ating expenses and reserve funds.

1 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—A facility may use assistance
2 pursuant to subsection (a) only if doing so would—

3 “(1) help preserve access to a health service in
4 a rural community;

5 “(2) meaningfully improve the financial position
6 of the facility; and

7 “(3) otherwise meet the financial feasibility and
8 security adequacy requirements of the Rural Devel-
9 opment Agency.

10 “(c) WAIVER.—In the case of an application from a
11 facility referred to in subsection (a) of this section for as-
12 sistance under section 306(a) for a community facility, or
13 under section 310B, the Secretary may waive the require-
14 ment of section 302(a)(1)(D) if the facility that is insol-
15 vent or located in a persistent poverty area, socially vul-
16 nerable community (as determined by the Secretary), or
17 distressed area (as determined by the Secretary).

18 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 “(1) PERSISTENT POVERTY AREA.—The term
20 ‘persistent poverty area’ means an area with a pov-
21 erty rate of 20 percent or more for 4 consecutive
22 time periods, approximately 10 years apart, span-
23 ning approximately 30 years.

24 “(2) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’
25 means an area with a population of 50,000 or fewer

1 inhabitants that is not an urbanized area adjacent
2 or contiguous to a city with a population of more
3 than 50,000 inhabitants.”.

4 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
5 subsection (a) shall take effect 6 months after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act.

