

*Ther Smith*

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To establish in the Department of Agriculture the position of Rural Health Liaison.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 2d Sess.

(no.) \_\_\_\_\_

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Ms. SMITH

Viz:

1 After section 12407, insert the following:

2 **SEC. 12408. RURAL HEALTH LIAISON.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title II of the De-  
4 partment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7  
5 U.S.C. 6941 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
6 the following:

7 **“SEC. 236. RURAL HEALTH LIAISON.**

8 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall establish  
9 in the Department the position of Rural Health Liaison.

10 “(b) DUTIES.—The Rural Health Liaison shall—

1           “(1) in consultation with the Secretary of  
2           Health and Human Services, coordinate the role of  
3           the Department with respect to rural health;

4           “(2) integrate across the Department the stra-  
5           tegic planning and activities relating to rural health;

6           “(3) improve communication relating to rural  
7           health within the Department and between Federal  
8           agencies;

9           “(4) advocate on behalf of the health care and  
10          relevant infrastructure needs in rural areas;

11          “(5) provide to stakeholders, potential grant ap-  
12          plicants, Federal agencies, State agencies, Indian  
13          Tribes, private organizations, and academic institu-  
14          tions relevant data and information, including the  
15          eligibility requirements for, and availability and out-  
16          comes of, Department programs applicable to the  
17          advancement of rural health;

18          “(6) maintain communication with public  
19          health, medical, occupational safety, and tele-  
20          communication associations, research entities, and  
21          other stakeholders to ensure that the Department is  
22          aware of current and upcoming issues relating to  
23          rural health;

24          “(7) consult on programs, pilot projects, re-  
25          search, training, and other affairs relating to rural

1 health at the Department and other Federal agen-  
2 cies;

3 “(8) provide expertise on rural health to sup-  
4 port the activities of the Secretary as Chair of the  
5 Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural  
6 Prosperity; and

7 “(9) provide technical assistance and guidance  
8 with respect to activities relating to rural health to  
9 the outreach, extension, and county offices of the  
10 Department.”.

11 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 296(b) of  
12 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of  
13 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by adding at the end  
14 the following:

15 “(9) The authority of the Secretary to establish  
16 in the Department the position of Rural Health Li-  
17 aison under section 236.”.