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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary will award competitive grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing and enhancing farming and ranching opportunities for veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. VAN ORDEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary will award competitive grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing and enhancing farming and ranching opportunities for veterans.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Agriculture Grants for
3 Veterans Education and Training Services Act” or the
4 “AG VETS Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDUCATION**
6 **AND TRAINING SERVICES.**

7 Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and
8 Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7624 et seq.)
9 is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 **“SEC. 414. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDU-**
11 **CATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
13 program under which the Secretary will award competitive
14 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing
15 and enhancing farming and ranching opportunities for
16 veterans (as defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United
17 States Code).

18 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible for
19 a grant under this section if such entity is—

20 “(1) a cooperative extension service;

21 “(2) a land-grant college or university (as de-
22 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural
23 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
24 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

25 “(3) a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as
26 defined in such section);

1 “(4) a Hispanic-serving agricultural college and
2 university (as defined in such section);

3 “(5) a State department of agriculture;

4 “(6) a nonprofit organization;

5 “(7) a community-based organization; or

6 “(8) a combination of 2 or more eligible entities
7 described in paragraphs (1) through (7).

8 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
9 a grant under this section shall use the funds received
10 through the grant—

11 “(1) to provide training and classroom edu-
12 cation that leads to a comprehensive understanding
13 of farm and ranch business operations and manage-
14 ment practices;

15 “(2) to develop or identify curriculum that vet-
16 eran farmers and ranchers can adopt to help man-
17 age their enterprise;

18 “(3) to offer education, workshops, tours, and
19 instructor-supervised field experiences; or

20 “(4) to support any other activity, as identified
21 by the Secretary, to increase the number of military
22 veterans pursuing knowledge and skills development
23 in agriculture.

24 “(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—An entity that receives a
25 grant under this section shall provide non-Federal match-

1 ing funds for the purposes of carrying out this section in
2 an amount equal to not less than the amount of the grant.
3 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
5 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.