

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5848

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish within the Office of the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention the Office of Rural Health, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 3, 2021

Mr. MCEACHIN (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish within the Office of the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention the Office of Rural Health, and for other purposes.

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

3       **SECTION 1. CDC OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH.**

4       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
5       within the Office of the Director of the Centers for Disease  
6       Control and Prevention an office to be known as the “Of-  
7       fice of Rural Health”, to be headed by a director ap-

1 pointed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control  
2 and Prevention.

3 (b) DUTIES.—The Director of the Office shall—

4 (1) serve as the primary point of contact in the  
5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on mat-  
6 ters pertaining to rural health;

7 (2) assist the Secretary in conducting, coordi-  
8 nating, and promoting research regarding public  
9 health issues affecting rural populations, and in dis-  
10 seminating the results of such research;

11 (3) work with all personnel and offices of the  
12 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to de-  
13 velop, refine, coordinate, and promulgate policies,  
14 best practices, lessons learned, and innovative, suc-  
15 cessful programs to improve care, services, and so-  
16 cial determinants of health for populations who re-  
17 side in rural areas of the United States;

18 (4) coordinate and support rural health re-  
19 search, conduct and support educational outreach,  
20 and disseminate evidence-based interventions related  
21 to health outcomes, access to health care, and life-  
22 style challenges, to prevent death, disease, injury,  
23 and disability, and promote healthy behaviors, in  
24 rural populations, including rural minority and  
25 LGBTQ populations;

1           (5) improve the understanding of the challenges  
2       faced by rural populations;

3           (6) identify disparities in the availability of  
4       health care and public health interventions for popu-  
5       lations living in rural areas;

6           (7) administer grants, cooperative agreements,  
7       and contracts to provide technical assistance and  
8       other activities as necessary to support activities re-  
9       lated to improving health and health care in rural  
10      areas; and

11          (8) perform such other functions and duties as  
12      the Secretary determines appropriate.

13      (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14          (1) The term “Office”, except as otherwise  
15      specified, means the Office of Rural Health estab-  
16      lished pursuant to subsection (a).

17          (2) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
18      of Health and Human Services, acting through the  
19      Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-  
20      vention.

21      (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
22      authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
23      \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 and each subsequent fis-  
24      cal year.

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