

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8467 OFFERED BY MS. CROCKETT OF TEXAS

Establishes an Office of Colonias and Farmworkers.

Establishes a Colonias and Farmworkers inter-governmental committee.

Transfers existing positions to the new Office as applicable.

Provides for authorization of \$2.5 million dollars for each fiscal year 2024-2029.

Equivalent to H.R. 6183

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OFFERED BY MS. CROCKETT OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

1 **SEC. 124 ____ . ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF COLONIAS**
2 **AND FARMWORKER INITIATIVES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Federal Crop In-
4 surance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorga-
5 nization Act of 1994 is amended by adding after section
6 309 (7 U.S.C. 6921) the following:

7 **“SEC. 310. OFFICE OF COLONIAS AND FARMWORKER INI-**
8 **TIATIVES.**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
10 lish and maintain in the Department an Office of Colonias
11 and Farmworker Initiatives (referred to in this subsection
12 as the ‘Office’) to—

13 “(1) improve engagement with, and service to,
14 border colonias communities, farmworkers, and the
15 family members and children of farmworkers;

16 “(2) improve collaboration between the Depart-
17 ment and National, State, and local colonias and
18 farmworker programs and nonprofit organizations;
19 and

1 “(3) carry out other such functions as the Sec-
2 retary determines appropriate.

3 “(b) DUTIES.—The Office shall ensure that border
4 colonias communities, farmworkers, the family members
5 and children of farmworkers, and nonprofit organizations
6 representing or assisting such communities and individ-
7 uals have equitable access to, and equitable participation
8 in, programs and services of the Department by—

9 “(1) establishing and monitoring the goals and
10 objectives of the Department to increase participa-
11 tion of such communities, individuals, and nonprofit
12 organizations in Department programs;

13 “(2) assessing the effectiveness of Department
14 outreach programs to such communities, individuals,
15 and nonprofit organizations;

16 “(3) developing and implementing a plan to co-
17 ordinate outreach activities and services to such
18 communities, individuals, and nonprofit organiza-
19 tions provided by—

20 “(A) the Department; and

21 “(B) other Federal agencies, including
22 services related to housing, education, health
23 care, and infrastructure development;

24 “(4) providing input to the Department and
25 other Federal agencies on programmatic and policy

1 decisions relating to such communities, individuals,
2 and nonprofit organizations, including—

3 “(A) identifying obstacles for access to
4 programs and resources; and

5 “(B) elevating Federal, State, and local
6 best practices;

7 “(5) measuring outcomes of the programs and
8 activities of the Department to serve such commu-
9 nities and individuals;

10 “(6) recommending new initiatives and pro-
11 grams to the Secretary;

12 “(7) providing technical assistance to such or-
13 ganizations with respect to Departmental programs
14 and resources; and

15 “(8) carrying out any other related duties that
16 the Secretary determines appropriate.

17 “(c) COLONIAS COORDINATOR.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
19 lish within the Office the position of Colonias Coor-
20 dinator (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Coor-
21 dinator’).

22 “(2) DUTIES.—The Secretary shall delegate to
23 the Coordinator responsibility for the following:

24 “(A) Serving as a liaison to nonprofit or-
25 ganizations that represent and have dem-

1 onstrated experience serving and working in
2 colonias communities.

3 “(B) Coordinating with the Department,
4 other Federal agencies, and State and local gov-
5 ernments to ensure that the needs of colonias
6 communities are assessed and met, including
7 during declared disasters and other emer-
8 gencies.

9 “(C) Consulting within the Office and with
10 other entities to better integrate perspectives,
11 concerns, and interest of colonias communities
12 into the ongoing programs of the Department.

13 **“SEC. 311. COLONIAS AND FARMWORKER INITIATIVES CO-**
14 **ORDINATING COMMITTEE.**

15 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.—The Sec-
16 retary shall establish and convene a Federal coordinating
17 committee, to be known as the Colonias and Farmworker
18 Initiatives Coordinating Committee (referred to in this
19 subsection as the ‘Committee’) to provide advice and guid-
20 ance to the Secretary on matters relating to colonias and
21 farmworker affairs.

22 “(b) MEMBERSHIP AND COMPOSITION.—The Com-
23 mittee shall be composed—

1 “(1) of such representatives not described in
2 subparagraph (B) as the Secretary determines ap-
3 propriate; and

4 “(2) of representatives from each of the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(A) The Department of Housing and
7 Urban Development.

8 “(B) The Department of the Treasury.

9 “(C) The Environmental Protection Agen-
10 cy.

11 “(D) The Department of Health and
12 Human Services.

13 “(E) The Department of Education.

14 “(F) The Small Business Administration.

15 “(G) The Department of Labor.

16 “(H) The Federal Emergency Management
17 Agency.

18 “(c) DUTIES OF COMMITTEE.—The Committee
19 shall—

20 “(1) direct a working group composed of mem-
21 bers of the Committee (or designees of such mem-
22 bers) and representatives from other Federal agen-
23 cies and mission areas within the Department (such
24 as the Rural Housing Service, Rural Utilities Serv-

1 ice, Rural Business Service, Food and Nutrition
2 Service, and the Farm Service Agency);

3 “(2) engage stakeholders and identify State and
4 municipal best practices to assist colonias commu-
5 nities, farmworkers, and farmworkers’ family mem-
6 bers and children;

7 “(3) submit to the Secretary recommendations
8 or, and solutions to—

9 “(A) the issues identified raised under sub-
10 paragraph (B); and

11 “(B) issues raised at the local, regional, or
12 national level; and

13 “(4) identify and propose solutions to any inter-
14 departmental barrier between the Department and
15 other Federal agencies.

16 “(d) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT EXEMP-
17 TION.—Section 1013 of title V, United States Code, shall
18 not apply to the Committee.

19 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
21 \$2,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2024 through 2029
22 to carry out this section.”.

23 (b) TRANSFER OF POSITION OF FARMWORKER COOR-
24 DINATOR.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Farmworker Coordi-
2 nator position established under section 226B(f) of
3 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act
4 of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6934(f)) is transferred to the Of-
5 fice of Colonias and Farmworker Initiatives under
6 section 310 of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform
7 and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act
8 of 1994, as added by this Act.

9 (2) TRANSFER OF LEGAL PROVISIONS.—Sub-
10 section (f) of section 226B of the Department of Ag-
11 riculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
12 6934) is transferred so as to read as subsection (d)
13 of section 310 of the Federal Crop Insurance Re-
14 form and Department of Agriculture Reorganization
15 Act of 1994, as added by this Act.

