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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To reauthorize the farm to school program, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Farm to School Act
5 of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. ACCESS TO LOCAL FOODS: FARM TO SCHOOL PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 Section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National
9 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1)—

2 (A) by striking the paragraph designation
3 and heading and all that follows through “In
4 this subsection, the” and inserting the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

7 “(A) AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER.—The
8 term ‘agricultural producer’ means a farmer,
9 rancher, or fisher (including of farm-raised
10 fish).

11 “(B) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The”; and

12 (B) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesign-
13 nated), by inserting “, including the summer
14 food service program for children under section
15 13 and the early care and afterschool portions
16 of the child and adult care food program under
17 section 17,” after “under this Act”;

18 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “and non-
19 profit entities through grants and technical assist-
20 ance” and inserting “land-grant colleges and univer-
21 sities, and nonprofit entities through grants, tech-
22 nical assistance, and research”;

23 (3) in paragraph (3)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) in clause (i), by inserting “and
2 technical assistance” after “training”;

3 (ii) by redesignating clauses (vi) and
4 (vii) as clauses (vii) and (viii), respectively;
5 and

6 (iii) by inserting after clause (v) the
7 following:

8 “(vi) implementing agricultural lit-
9 eracy and nutrition education;”; and

10 (B) by striking subparagraph (C) and in-
11 serting the following:

12 “(C) IMPROVED PROCUREMENT AND DIS-
13 TRIBUTION.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In awarding
15 grants under this subsection, the Secretary
16 shall seek to improve local food procure-
17 ment and distribution options for agricul-
18 tural producers and eligible schools.

19 “(ii) AGGREGATION, PROCESSING,
20 TRANSPORTATION, AND DISTRIBUTION.—
21 In advancing local food procurement op-
22 tions and other farm to school objectives,
23 the Secretary may provide funding for
24 projects that include innovative approaches

1 to aggregation, processing, transportation,
2 and distribution.

3 “(D) AWARDS.—

4 “(i) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The total
5 amount provided to a grant recipient under
6 this subsection shall not exceed \$200,000.

7 “(ii) TERM.—The term of an award
8 shall not exceed 3 years.

9 “(iii) PURPOSE AND SCOPE.—In mak-
10 ing awards under this subsection, the Sec-
11 retary shall seek to make awards of diverse
12 amounts and duration in order to best
13 match the award to the purpose and scope
14 of the project to be funded.

15 “(E) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may
16 not award a grant under this subsection if the
17 grant funds would be used solely for the pur-
18 pose of carrying out a conference.”;

19 (4) in paragraph (5)—

20 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
21 through (G) as clauses (i) through (vii), respec-
22 tively, and indenting the clauses appropriately;

23 (B) in clause (ii) (as so redesignated), by
24 striking “lunches” and inserting “meals”;

1 (C) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as
2 so redesignated), by striking “To the maximum
3 extent practicable” and inserting the following:

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum ex-
5 tent practicable”;

6 (D) in clause (vi) (as so redesignated), by
7 striking “and” at the end;

8 (E) by redesignating clause (vii) (as so re-
9 designated) as clause (viii);

10 (F) by inserting after clause (vi) (as so re-
11 designated) the following:

12 “(vii) expand the selection of local
13 commodities for eligible schools; and”; and

14 (G) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(B) TRIBAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS.—In
16 the case of projects serving tribal communities,
17 the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent
18 practicable, give highest priority to projects
19 that best use products from tribal agricultural
20 producers, as determined by the Secretary.”;

21 (5) in paragraph (7)—

22 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
23 through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respec-
24 tively, and indenting appropriately;

1 (B) by striking the paragraph designation
2 and heading and all that follows through “non-
3 profit entities—” and inserting the following:

4 “(7) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RE-
5 SEARCH.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
7 provide technical assistance, research, and in-
8 formation to assist eligible schools, State and
9 local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agri-
10 cultural producers or agricultural producer
11 groups, and nonprofit entities—”;

12 (C) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
13 ignated)—

14 (i) in clause (ii) (as so redesignated),
15 by striking “and” at the end;

16 (ii) in clause (iii) (as so redesignated),
17 by striking the period at the end and in-
18 serting “; and”; and

19 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(iv) to increase awareness of, and
22 participation in, farm to school programs
23 among agricultural and aquaculture pro-
24 ducers or agricultural producer groups, in-

cluding beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.”; and (D) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) REVIEW.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm to School Act of 2015 and every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary shall review and submit to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the progress that has been made in identifying and eliminating regulatory and other barriers related to developing farm to school programs.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—In preparing the report, the Secretary shall examine—

“(I) the direct and indirect regulatory compliance costs affecting the production and marketing of locally or regionally produced agricultural food products to school food programs; and

1 “(II) barriers to local and re-
2 gional market access for small-scale
3 production.”;

4 (6) in paragraph (8)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
6 “\$5,000,000” and inserting “\$15,000,000”;
7 and

8 (B) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(C) ADMINISTRATION.—Of the funds pro-
10 vided to the Secretary under subparagraph (A),
11 not more than 5 percent may be used to pay
12 administrative costs incurred by the Secretary
13 in carrying out this subsection.”; and

14 (7) in paragraph (9), by striking “2011
15 through 2015” and inserting “2016 through 2021”.