

## **Short title: Farm and Agricultural Worker Safety Education Act**

### **Summary:**

- The COVID-19 Pandemic has highlighted the need to make sure we have a safe and reliable workforce to maintain our food supply. In order to win the battle with COVID-19, we need to guarantee that the most up to date and science-based information is getting in the hands of community leaders, educators and rural businesses.
- While our federal and state governments work to implement safety plans and share information related to COVID-19, the Farm and Agricultural Worker Safety Education Act (FAWSEA) will ensure that pertinent and timely information on relevant health and safety guidance, guidelines, and other information is reaching our rural workforce. Making sure our rural economy has the necessary access to this information is critical as we work to reopen our economy.
- If enacted, FAWSEA would give non-profits, cooperative extension services, land-grant universities, state/local governments, processors and handlers, and farm families resources to distribute best practices and training materials to help farm and agricultural workers respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### **Legislative Summary:**

- The FAWSEA would amend Sec. 502(i)(1)(B) of the Rural Development Act of 1972 to broaden the purposes of the Act by:
  - Inserting “and agricultural worker” before “safety education”
  - Expanding the population served by including “agricultural processors and handlers, timber harvesters, farm families, and other participants in the agricultural supply chain”
  - Adding “other relevant health and safety guidance, guidelines, requirements, or information.” to authorize information and training on COVID-19.
- The FAWSEA would authorize an appropriation of \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2026 for the purpose of this act.
- The FAWSEA would broaden the purposes of the Rural Health and Safety Education Grant Program (RHSE) to enhance information distribution related to COVID-19 information.
  - Currently, the RHSE is utilized to promote and enhance rural health, strengthen economic vitality and, over time, break the rural poverty cycle.