

THE FARM & RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE NETWORK

The Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) was authorized by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill. This program, if funded, will provide behavioral health supports for stressed farmers in many areas of the country. These supports include telephone hotlines that are geared to the farm population, follow-up behavioral health counseling, support groups, home visitation services and others.

The FRSAN has gained popular support over the last couple years. There are currently 38 states that have expressed an interest in starting a FRSAN-type program. There are also 14 major organizations representing more than 1 million constituents that have confirmed their support for the FRSAN.

Even though Congress authorized the FRSAN, it has yet to approve funding for it. There are currently several efforts underway in Congress to seek funds for the program for fiscal year 2011.

Supporters of FRSAN have requested official letters of support from Senator Pat Roberts and Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas. Senator Tom Harkin (IA) is carrying an official letter of support to the Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies and to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (NY) has written a letter requesting passage of appropriations to fund the FRSAN.

Senators Charles Grassley (IA) and Tim Johnson (SD) have written a letter together requesting passage of appropriations for the program.

An appropriations request was also sent to Senator Herb Kohl (WI) and Representative David Obey (WI).

Following is a list of Senators and Congresspersons who are members of the subcommittees that are considering the FRSAN funding. Readers may click on the person's name to be directed to his or her website contact form. We encourage interested persons to contact their local Representative or Senator about this issue.

IN MEMORIAM

Ann Schumacher

Ann Schumacher, AgriWellness Board member from Kansas, was killed on March 23, 2010. Her ex-husband, Todd Schumacher, has been charged with first-degree murder in her death. Ann was a social worker and the incoming president of the National Association for Rural Mental Health. She was a dedicated advocate for rural behavioral health and a committed volunteer with the youth in her church.

She is survived by three children, Megan age 17, Miranda age 15 and Matthew age 10. Memorials may be given to the Schumacher Children's Education Fund in care of, [Price and Sons Funeral Home](#), Leoti, Kansas.

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Members (click on the name to be directed to the Senator's contact form)

Democratic Members

[Senator Herb Kohl](#) (Chairman) (WI)
[Senator Tom Harkin](#) (IA)
[Senator Byron Dorgan](#) (ND)
[Senator Dianne Feinstein](#) (CA)
[Senator Richard Durbin](#) (IL)
[Senator Tim Johnson](#) (SD)
[Senator Ben Nelson](#) (NE)
[Senator Jack Reed](#) (RI)
[Senator Mark Pryor](#) (AR)
[Senator Arlen Specter](#) (PA)

Republican Members

[Senator Sam Brownback](#) (Ranking Member) (KS)
[Senator Robert Bennett](#) (UT)
[Senator Thad Cochran](#) (MS)
[Senator Christopher \(Kit\) Bond](#) (MO)
[Senator Mitch McConnell](#) (KY)
[Senator Susan Collins](#) (ME)

House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Members (click on the name to be directed to the Representative's contact form)

Democratic Members

[Congressman David Obey](#) (Chairman) (WI-7th)
[Congresswoman Nita Lowey](#) (NY-18th)
[Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro](#) (CT-3rd)
[Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr.](#) (IL-2nd)
[Congressman Patrick Kennedy](#) (RI-1st)
[Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard](#) (CA-34th)
[Congresswoman Barbara Lee](#) (CA-9th)
[Congressman Michael Honda](#) (CA-15th)
[Congresswoman Betty McCullum](#) (MN-4th)
[Congressman Tim Ryan](#) (OH-17th)
[Congressman James P. Moran](#) (VA-8th)

Republican Members

[Congressman Todd Tiahrt](#) (Ranking Member) (KS-4th)
[Congressman Dennis R. Rehberg](#) (MT-at large)
[Congressman Rodney Alexander](#) (LA-5th)
[Congressman Jo Bonner](#) (AL-1st)
[Congressman Tom Cole](#) (OK-4th)
[Congressman Jerry Lewis](#) (CA-41st), Ex Officio

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Members (click on the name to be directed to the Senator's contact form)

Democratic Members

[Senator Tom Harkin](#) (Chairman) (IA)
[Senator Daniel Inouye](#) (HI)
[Senator Herb Kohl](#) (WI)
[Senator Patty Murray](#) (WA)
[Senator Mary Landrieu](#) (LA)
[Senator Richard Durbin](#) (IL)
[Senator Jack Reed](#) (RI)
[Senator Mark Pryor](#) (AR)
[Senator Arlen Specter](#) (PA)

Republican Members

[Senator Thad Cochran](#) (MS)
[Senator Judd Gregg](#) (NH)
[Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison](#) (TX)
[Senator Richard Shelby](#) (AL)
[Senator Lamar Alexander](#) (TN)

House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Members (click on the name to be directed to the Representative's contact form)

Democratic Members

[Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro](#) (Chair) (CT-3rd)
[Congressman Sam Farr](#) (CA-17th)
[Congressman Allen Boyd](#) (FL-2nd)
[Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.](#) (GA-2nd)
[Congressman Lincoln Davis](#) (TN-4th)
[Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur](#) (OH-9th)
[Congressman Maurice Hinchey](#) (NY-22nd)
[Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr.](#) (IL-2nd)
[Congressman David Obey](#) (WI-7th), Ex Officio

Republican Members

[Congressman Jack Kingston](#) (Ranking Member) (GA-1st)
[Congressman Tom Latham](#) (IA-4th)
[Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson](#) (MO-8th)
[Congressman Rodney Alexander](#) (LA-5th)
[Congressman Jerry Lewis](#) (CA-41st), Ex Officio