



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Assembly Bill 10406-B (Assemblymember Barrett) / Senate Bill 7920-B (Senator Valesky)

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE MENTAL HYGIENE LAW, IN RELATION TO CREATING
THE RURAL SUICIDE PREVENTION COUNCIL**

Date: 6/11/2018

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, would like to express its support for this legislation. This bill would create the rural suicide prevention council which would identify ways to reduce the number of suicides in rural areas.

Due to the nature of the work and the stress involved in farming, many farmers suffer from depression and are at a high risk of suicide. Rates of suicide were found to be the highest in farming, fishing, and forestry according to a 2016 report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This report shows that there was an average of 84.5 suicides per 100,000 people in these occupations. With the current economic crisis in the dairy community, there is an increasing risk of suicide for dairy farmers. It is extremely important to address this crisis and create a plan that will help those at risk in rural areas, specifically the agricultural community.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support of this legislation.