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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish a LGBTQI rural outreach grant program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BONAMICI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish a LGBTQI rural outreach grant 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 “Elder Pride Act of  
5 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. RURAL OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 Part A of title IV of the Older Americans Act of 1965  
3 (42 U.S.C. 3031 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 423. RURAL OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
8 tity’ means an entity that submits an application to  
9 the Assistant Secretary in accordance with sub-  
10 section (c) and is—

11 “(A) a State;

12 “(B) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-  
13 tion; or

14 “(C) an agency, nonprofit organization, or  
15 institution that—

16 “(i) focuses on serving the needs of  
17 older individuals, LGBTQI individuals,  
18 older LGBTQI individuals, or individuals  
19 of another protected class; or

20 “(ii) focuses on providing sexual  
21 health services to all older individuals, in-  
22 cluding services for individuals with HIV;  
23 and

24 “(D) may include an area agency on aging  
25 for a rural area or a multipurpose senior cen-  
26 ter.

1           “(2) LGBTQI.—The term ‘LGBTQI’, used  
2           with respect to an individual, means a lesbian, gay,  
3           bisexual, transgender, queer, or intersex individual.

4           “(3) PROTECTED CLASS.—The term ‘protected  
5           class’ means a group of individuals sharing a com-  
6           mon characteristic or identity who are legally pro-  
7           tected against discrimination.

8           “(4) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’  
9           means an area that is not designated by the United  
10          States Census Bureau as an urbanized area or  
11          urban cluster.

12          “(b) AUTHORITY FOR GRANTS.—The Assistant Sec-  
13          retary may make grants to eligible entities to carry out  
14          activities described in subsection (d) that are designed—

15                 “(1) to create a cooperative and lasting part-  
16                 nership between LGBTQI older individuals, or older  
17                 individuals of a protected class, residing in rural  
18                 areas and the eligible entity receiving the grant;

19                 “(2) to meet the needs of the individuals de-  
20                 scribed in paragraph (1); and

21                 “(3) to provide comprehensive sexual health  
22                 services to all older individuals residing in rural  
23                 areas.

24          “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity seeking a  
2           grant under this section shall submit an application  
3           to the Assistant Secretary at such time, in such  
4           manner, and containing such information as the As-  
5           sistant Secretary may reasonably require, including  
6           the contents described in paragraph (2).

7           “(2) CONTENTS.—An application for a grant  
8           under this section shall contain—

9                   “(A) a description of the proposed activi-  
10                  ties to be supported by the grant;

11                   “(B) a description of the size and charac-  
12                  teristics of the population in a rural area to be  
13                  served by such proposed activities;

14                   “(C) a description of the public and private  
15                  resources expected to be made available in con-  
16                  nection with such activities;

17                   “(D) a demonstrated intent to partner  
18                  with local organizations in rural areas in car-  
19                  rying out such activities;

20                   “(E) evidence in a form acceptable to the  
21                  Assistant Secretary that such activities will  
22                  meet urgent needs that are not met by available  
23                  public and private sources; and

24                   “(F) such other information or certifi-  
25                  cations that the Assistant Secretary determines

1           necessary to achieve the purposes described in  
2           paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b).

3           “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use  
4 funds made available by a grant under this section to  
5 carry out activities that include initiatives that—

6           “(1) engage in education and training relating  
7 to community outreach to LGBTQI older individ-  
8 uals, or older individuals of a protected class, resid-  
9 ing in rural areas;

10           “(2) reduce isolation and improve access to care  
11 for LGBTQI older individuals, or older individuals  
12 of a protected class, residing in rural areas by build-  
13 ing relationships between such individuals and the  
14 local community;

15           “(3) foster relationships between local service  
16 providers and LGBTQI older individuals, or older  
17 individuals of a protected class, residing in rural  
18 areas;

19           “(4) improve cultural competency with respect  
20 to LGBTQI individuals, and older individuals of a  
21 protected class, among organizations and personnel  
22 providing services to older individuals residing in  
23 rural areas;

24           “(5) expand the use of nondiscrimination poli-  
25 cies that—

1           “(A) protect sexual orientation, gender  
2           identity, and sex characteristics (including  
3           intersex traits); and

4           “(B) create community spaces that are in-  
5           clusive to LGBTQI older individuals and older  
6           individuals of a protected class; and

7           “(6) focus on providing sexual health services to  
8           older individuals residing in rural areas, including  
9           services for individuals with HIV.

10          “(e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—As a condition  
11          of receiving funds under this section, an eligible entity  
12          shall use such funds received under this section only to  
13          supplement the level of state or local funds that would,  
14          in the absence of the receipt of funds under this section,  
15          be made available for related LGBTQI services.

16          “(f) STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.—The Assistant  
17          Secretary shall establish standards and guidelines for ac-  
18          tivities supported by grants under this section. Such  
19          standards and guidelines shall permit an eligible entity re-  
20          ceiving such grant to refine or adapt the standards and  
21          guidelines for an individual project if the refinement or  
22          adaptation is made necessary by a local circumstance.

23          “(g) COORDINATION WITH LOCAL ENTITIES.—

24                 “(1) COOPERATION.—An eligible entity that re-  
25                 ceives a grant under this section shall, in carrying

1 out activities supported by the grant, agree to co-  
2 operate and coordinate with—

3 “(A) the agencies of the relevant State and  
4 local governments responsible for providing  
5 services to LGBTQI older individuals, or older  
6 individuals of a protected class, in the area  
7 served by such activities; and

8 “(B) other public and private organizations  
9 and agencies providing services to LGBTQI  
10 older individuals, or older individuals of a pro-  
11 tected class, in such area.

12 “(2) PRIORITIZATION.—An eligible entity re-  
13 ceiving a grant under this section shall prioritize co-  
14 operating and coordinating with public and private  
15 organizations and agencies that primarily serve pop-  
16 ulations of older individuals with the greatest social  
17 need.

18 “(h) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the ef-  
19 fective date of this section, and annually thereafter, the  
20 Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Congress and  
21 make available to the public a report describing the activi-  
22 ties carried out under this section during the then pre-  
23 ceding 2-year period.

24 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
25 to be authorized for rural outreach grant activities under

1 section 423 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 and  
2 2024.”.