



Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
PO Box 12
Maple Plain, MN
55359

March 21, 2025

Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee
Chair Senator Aric Putnam
Minnesota Senate Building Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55115

Dear Chair Putnam and members of the committee,

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA), representing around 1,000 members, is submitting this written testimony in support of SF 2809. We know the importance of mental health and the impact it has on farmers and ranchers, and we feel that it is crucial that we support the mental well-being and safety of farmers and ranchers.

According to the National Rural Health Association, farmers are 3.5 times more likely to die by suicide than the general population. Our industry is struggling, and farmers and ranchers need assistance. We must unite in this industry to prevent feelings of isolation and hopelessness.

The MSCA supports mental health being a top priority and normalizing the discussion around it.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to reach out to MSCA's Executive Director Kaitlyn Root at 763-479-1011 or at kaitlyn@mnsca.org.

Sincerely,

Jake Thompson

President
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association