

August 30th, 2024

To: President Joe Biden, Senator Timothy M. Kaine

Subject: Support the 988 Lifeline

I am reaching out to express my support for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. In just two years, the 988 Lifeline helped more than 10+ million people, offering free and lifesaving support to people in crisis.

However, a poll by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and Ipsos found that more than 30% of Americans still don't know about 988. Additionally, NAMI found that only 9 states have passed comprehensive 988 legislation. So please help the 988 Lifeline reach its capacity by

- Supporting sustainable funding for 988. Having a designated funding stream like 911 has would ensure 988 has consistent funding and is able to meet the US' ongoing mental health crisis
- Using your platform to raise awareness for 988. Please consider posting about the 988 Lifeline on your social media channels or mentioning it during your speeches and town halls
- Supporting public awareness campaigns, like SAMHSA's 988 Day and recognizing other mental health awareness campaigns
- Helping increase 988 signage in key touchpoint areas like high risk areas (near bridges, bodies of water, gun stores and shows, etc.) and mental healthcare providers (mental health clinics, hospitals)

Thank you for your time. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns, I would be happy to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Nicole Taylor, LPC
Lynchburg, Virginia