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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To amend the Public Health Service Act to award grants to eligible crisis centers to provide follow-up services to individuals receiving suicide prevention and crisis intervention services, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve the accessibility of 9–8–8, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. RASKIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to award grants to eligible crisis centers to provide follow-up services to individuals receiving suicide prevention and crisis intervention services, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve the accessibility of 9–8–8, 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 “9–8–8 Connect Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR FOLLOW-UP SERVICES TO INDIVID-**
2 **UALS RECEIVING SUICIDE PREVENTION AND**
3 **CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES.**

4 Title V of the Public Health Service Act is amended
5 by inserting after section 520E-4 (42 U.S.C. 290bb-36d)
6 the following:

7 **“SEC. 520E-5. FOLLOW-UP SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS RE-**
8 **CEIVING SUICIDE PREVENTION AND CRISIS**
9 **INTERVENTION SERVICES.**

10 “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, acting through
11 the Assistant Secretary, shall award grants to eligible cri-
12 sis centers to provide follow-up services to individuals re-
13 ceiving suicide prevention and crisis intervention services.

14 “(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to seek a grant
15 under this section, a crisis center shall be a member of
16 the network of crisis centers coordinated under section
17 520E-3(b)(1).

18 “(c) **SELECTION.**—The Secretary shall select recipi-
19 ents of grants under this section based on the relative
20 needs, including capacity and service gaps, of the eligible
21 crisis centers applying for such grants.

22 “(d) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary shall
23 provide technical assistance to recipients of grants under
24 this section regarding best practices for the implementa-
25 tion of services through such grants.

26 “(e) **USE OF FUNDS.**—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A crisis center receiving a
2 grant under this section shall use the grant to pro-
3 vide follow-up services to individuals receiving sui-
4 cide prevention and crisis intervention services such
5 as—

6 “(A) individuals who were callers at risk
7 of, or on behalf of someone at risk of, suicide
8 or a mental health or suicidal crisis; and

9 “(B) to the extent possible, individuals
10 who—

11 “(i) received a response from a mobile
12 crisis team; or

13 “(ii) made a visit to an urgent behav-
14 ioral health clinic, a crisis receiving and
15 stabilization facility, an emergency depart-
16 ment, an inpatient unit, or another short-
17 term crisis care site.

18 “(2) FOLLOW-UP SERVICES.—Follow-up serv-
19 ices referred to in paragraph (1) may include—

20 “(A) check-ins to assess well-being and
21 level of risk;

22 “(B) outreach to ensure engagement in
23 services and supports, in coordination with mo-
24 bile crisis service providers if involved;

1 “(C) collaboration with family, caregivers,
2 and natural social supports; and

3 “(D) referrals based on the needed level of
4 care.

5 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
6 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-
7 priated \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2027, to remain avail-
8 able until expended.”.

9 **SEC. 3. 9-8-8 IMPROVEMENT.**

10 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) 9-8-8.—The term “9-8-8” means 9-8-8,
12 as designated as the universal telephone number
13 within the United States for the purpose of the na-
14 tional suicide prevention and mental health crisis
15 hotline system under section 251(e)(4) of the Com-
16 munications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)(4)).

17 (2) COMMERCIAL MOBILE SERVICE.—The term
18 “commercial mobile service” has the meaning given
19 the term in section 332(d) of the Communications
20 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)).

21 (3) NON-SERVICE-INITIALIZED HANDSET.—The
22 term “non-service-initialized handset” has the mean-
23 ing given the term in section 9.10(o)(3)(i) of title
24 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor
25 regulation.

1 (b) TRANSMISSION OF ALL CALLS AND TEXTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days
3 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal
4 Communications Commission shall promulgate regu-
5 lations to ensure that each provider of commercial
6 mobile service transmits all calls and text messages
7 made or sent to 9–8–8, including a call or text mes-
8 sages that originates from a non-service-initialized
9 handset (if the call or text message originates on a
10 phone using a compliant radio frequency protocol of
11 the provider).

12 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—A provider of commer-
13 cial mobile service shall comply with the regulations
14 promulgated under paragraph (1) not later than 1
15 year after the date on which the regulations are pro-
16 mulgated.

17 (c) CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE
18 SYSTEMS FOR DIRECT DIALING.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 721 of the Commu-
20 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 623) is amended—

21 (A) in the section heading, by inserting

22 “**AND 9–8–8**” after “**9–1–1**”;

23 (B) in subsection (a), by inserting “or 9–
24 8–8” after “9–1–1”; and

1 (C) in subsection (b), by inserting “or 9–
2 8–8” after “9–1–1”.

3 (2) APPLICABILITY.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made
5 by paragraph (1) shall apply to actions occur-
6 ring on and after the date that is 2 years after
7 the date of enactment of this Act.

8 (B) EXCEPTION.—The amendment made
9 by paragraph (1)(C) shall not apply to the
10 management or operation of a multi-line tele-
11 phone system installed before the date that is 2
12 years after the date of enactment of this Act,
13 if the system is not able to be configured to sat-
14 isfy the requirements of the amendment, with-
15 out an improvement to the hardware or soft-
16 ware of the system.