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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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April 6, 2022

The Honorable Tony Cárdenas  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2438 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cárdenas:

We are writing to express support for H.R. 7116, the 988 Implementation Act because it would provide much needed federal funding and guidance for states to build up their crisis response infrastructure and successfully implement the 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Many people experiencing suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress do not receive the timely support and care that they need. Studies have shown that suicide significantly impacts at-risk communities, including youth, the Black and LGBTQ+ communities, veterans, and those with hearing, visual, or speech disabilities. In 2020, the U.S. had one death by suicide approximately every 11 minutes, and for people aged 10 – 34 years, suicide is a leading cause of death. Therefore, it is important to adequately prepare for the July 2022 launch of 9-8-8, as the new national, three-digit phone number for Americans in crisis to receive suicide prevention and mental health counselor services, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Counties are an integral part of the local behavioral health crisis care continuum and will be key facilitators in the implementation of the new 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. To be successful, counties will need to expand the capacity of the 9-8-8 call center infrastructure to field and triage incoming calls; enhance services being provided to those in need, including mobile crisis response services and over-the-phone crisis services; and build up bed and crisis stabilization capacity across the spectrum of needs.

Under the leadership of the Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County is currently enhancing and expanding its call center capacity and crisis response services to prepare for the upcoming launch of 9-8-8. Ongoing support from the Federal and State governments are key to the successful implementation of this effort in our County.

The new 9-8-8 system will provide an effective, appropriate, and sustainable response to help thousands of people overcome crisis situations every day. The full vision of a

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transformed crisis care system with 9-8-8 at its core will not be built overnight and we must all work together to make it happen.


Therefore, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors supports H.R. 7116 and similar measures, to successfully implement the 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Thank you for your leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
HOLLY MITCHELL  
Chair of the Board  
Supervisor, Second District

  
HILDA SOLIS  
Supervisor, First District

  
SHEILA KUEHL  
Supervisor, Third District

  
JANICE HAHN  
Supervisor, Fourth District

  
KATHRYN BARGER  
Supervisor, Fifth District

- c: Senator Dianne Feinstein
- Senator Alex Padilla
- Representative Don Beyer (D-VA)
- Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)
- Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)
- Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA)
- Representative Seth Moulton (D-MA)
- Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA)
- Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD)

Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation