



University
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Institute

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April 28, 2017

Senator Hatch
U.S. Senate
04 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001

RE: National Suicide Prevention Hotline Improvement Act of 2017

Dear Senator Hatch,

We are writing this letter of support for the National suicide Prevention Hotline Improvement Act of 2017 on behalf of the University Neuropsychiatric Institute.

Suicide is a major preventable health problem in the United States. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the 7th leading cause of death overall in Utah. For Utahns age's 10-24 suicide is the first leading cause of death and for Utahns age's 25-44 suicide is the second leading cause of death. In Utah, eleven times as many people die by suicide in a year than by homicide. Recognizing the devastating toll suicide is taking on the citizens of our state the Utah Legislature passed S.B.37 creating a statewide mental health crisis line commission to study how to establish and implement a statewide three digit mental health crisis line with the goal of providing all Utahns access to a qualified mental or behavioral health professional 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

The proposed Hatch-Stewart National Suicide Prevention Hotline Improvement Act of 2017:

1) Requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), within 120 days, to study, in conjunction with the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and to report to Congress on the designation of a 3-digit dialing code for a suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system; 2) Requires the FCC to evaluate the N-1-1 dialing codes, as well as other 3-digit numbers for the use of this hotline; 3) Requires the FCC's report to make recommendations to Congress on which number to designate, as well as the logistics and estimated costs associated with such a designation.

Based on the success of the 9-1-1 emergency system administered by the National Emergency Number Association, a study by the FCC regarding the use of a simple easy-to-remember dedicated 3-digit dialing code for a suicide prevention and mental health hotline would be beneficial in the prevention of suicide nationwide. Thank you for sponsoring this lifesaving legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross VanVranken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ross VanVranken
UNI, CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Trapletti". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a prominent loop at the end.

Mike Trapletti LCSW
UNI, Director