



State of Utah

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Lieutenant Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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April 28, 2017

Senator Orrin G. Hatch
U.S. Senate
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Congressman Chris Stewart
U.S. House of Representatives
323 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: National Suicide Prevention Hotline Improvement Act of 2017

Dear Senator Hatch and Congressman Stewart,

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the Utah Department of Human Services (DHS) for the proposed National Suicide Prevention Hotline Improvement Act.

DHS is committed to healthy children and families and strives to meet their complex behavioral health needs, including thoughts of suicide. In 2013, suicide became the leading cause of death among Utah's young people between the ages of 10-17. In our goal of reducing suicide, we believe access to a competent professional in the time of a mental health crisis is imperative.

The proposed National Suicide Prevention Hotline Improvement Act of 2017 which, 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 three-digit numbers for the use of this hotline; and 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, aligns perfectly with Utah's efforts of available emergency assistance to individuals seeking help in a time of a mental health crisis.

Accessible crisis services like those described in the act, with follow-up supports for children, youth, adults and families, is consistent with Utah's statewide crisis response and hotline efforts to provide immediate response to those in need.

Sincerely,

Ann Silverberg Williamson
Utah Department of Human Services Executive Director