

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 1

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, TO THE SENATE AND
3 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEM-
4 BLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF
5 IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

6 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of
7 the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth
8 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

9 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported
10 45,000 deaths by suicide in the United States in 2016, with rates of suicide
11 since 1999 increasing in every state; and

12 WHEREAS, the CDC reported that suicide is the tenth leading cause of
13 death in the United States, and one of just three of the leading causes of
14 death that are on the rise; and

15 WHEREAS, Idaho and other western states have the highest rates of sui-
16 cide in the nation, and the CDC reports that the rate of suicide is increasing
17 in Idaho and surrounding western states by rates that range from 30% to 58%
18 since 1999; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States faces an urgent public health crisis as these
20 deaths contribute to the declining life expectancy for Americans; and

21 WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 2345,
22 the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2018, by a vote of 379 to 1,
23 with both Congressman Raúl Labrador and Congressman Mike Simpson voting in
24 the affirmative; and the United States Senate passed H.R. 2345 by unanimous
25 consent; and

26 WHEREAS, on August 14, 2018, President Donald Trump signed H.R. 2345
27 into law as Public Law No. 115-233; and

28 WHEREAS, Public Law 115-233 requires the Federal Communications Com-
29 mission (FCC) to conduct a study that examines the feasibility of designat-
30 ing a simple, easy-to-remember, three-digit dialing code to be used for a na-
31 tional suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system; and

32 WHEREAS, the FCC's report must recommend whether a particular N11 di-
33 aling code or another simple, easy-to-remember, three-digit dialing code
34 should be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis
35 hotline system and, if so, the logistics and costs associated with designat-
36 ing such a dialing code; and

37 WHEREAS, 611 is the only undesignated N11 number available, and in 1997,
38 the FCC found that 611 would be available when "needed for other national
39 purposes"; and

40 WHEREAS, since 1968, 911 has been used for emergency service, and the
41 simplicity and ubiquity of the 911 dialing code makes the N11 pattern the
42 most logical pattern to follow for a national suicide prevention and mental
43 health crisis hotline.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
2 sion of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
3 the Senate concurring therein, that the FCC should recognize that combating
4 the staggering growth of suicide deaths is an important national purpose.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in response to the growing rate of suicide
6 deaths, the FCC should designate 611 as the new national suicide prevention
7 and mental health crisis hotline telephone number.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the FCC does not make such a designation,
9 the delegation representing the State of Idaho in Congress is hereby re-
10 spectfully requested to pursue legislation to that end.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
12 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
13 Memorial to the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, the Pres-
14 ident of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
15 Representatives, and to the congressional delegation representing the State
16 of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.