

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING 988 AS THE UNIVERSAL
MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION CRISIS PHONE NUMBER.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2020, President Trump signed into law the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the act designated 988 as the universal telephone number for the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system currently operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Veterans Crisis Line; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline is part of the existing network of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and currently receives calls from individuals dialing (800) 273-TALK; and

WHEREAS, as of 2019, Idaho's suicide rate is 41% higher than the national rate; and

WHEREAS, to prevent suicide, it is critical to transition the existing ten-digit National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number, (800) 273-TALK, to a universal, three-digit phone number and to connect people with life-saving resources; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline will experience an increased call volume when 988 goes live in July 2022 and becomes the equivalent of 911 for suicide and mental health crises; and

WHEREAS, Idaho has a shortage of mental health providers and primary care providers, making access to a 24/7 mental health and suicide prevention hotline vitally important; and

WHEREAS, suicide prevention and mental health support delivered by a crisis hotline helps Idahoans de-escalate and stay safe, thereby avoiding unnecessary and costly trips to hospital emergency departments and decreasing dispatch of police, emergency medical services, or fire department services; and

WHEREAS, 988 will improve access to mental health support for all Idahoans, especially those in rural communities with few health care providers; and

WHEREAS, promotion of 988 will help raise awareness of mental health and suicide prevention and decrease stigma associated with asking for help.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature recognizes 988 as the universal mental health and suicide prevention crisis phone number, effective July 2022.