

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7022

By Hemmer

A RESOLUTION to urge the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and any other relevant state agency to implement the SAMHSA 988 Partner Toolkit and any other methods to promote the use of the 988 hotline.

WHEREAS, on July 16, 2022, the Federal Communications Commission activated 988 as the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number for persons with mental health or substance abuse crises; and

WHEREAS, the 988 hotline is staffed twenty-four-hours a day, seven days a week with trained mental health personnel who are available for electronic chat, text messages, or telephone calls for those in crisis; and

WHEREAS, SAMHSA, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, has developed the 988 Partner Toolkit, which is a one-stop shop for social media, video, print, radio, FAQs, messaging, and other marketing materials for anyone to use to promote awareness of 988; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans need access to better mental healthcare services, and sadly, many of our fellow citizens do not know that the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is readily available during a mental health crisis; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has six call centers serving all ninety-five counties, with a seventh call center being added in West Tennessee, with backup coverage in each county; and

WHEREAS, it is of vital importance that we raise public awareness of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we strongly support and encourage the use of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in Tennessee and urge the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and other relevant State agencies to implement the SAMHSA 988 Partner Toolkit and any other method to promote the use of the 988 hotline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the commissioner of the Department of Education, the commissioner of the Department of Health, the commissioner of the Department of Finance and Administration, the commissioner of the Department of Safety, and other State government officials and agencies as appropriate.