November 12, 2026

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Member
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
Member
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Health
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Seth Moulton
1126 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael Lawler
324 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sharice Davids
2435 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Baldwin, Senator Murkowski, Representative Krishnamoorthi, Representative Lawler, Representative Fitzpatrick, Representative Moulton, and Representative Davids:

On behalf of the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), the largest coalition of national organizations representing individuals and families experiencing mental health and substance use challenges, mental health and substance use treatment providers, advocates, and other stakeholders committed to strengthening access to high-quality care, we write to thank you for your leadership and advocacy in restoring specialized services for LGBTQ+ youth through the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

The restoration of the 988 Lifeline's "Press 3" option on September 30, 2026 represents a significant step toward ensuring that LGBTQ+ young people in crisis can access timely, specialized support. The bipartisan effort to restore these services underscores that access to effective crisis care transcends political boundaries and advances Congress's original vision for the 988 Lifeline as a resource available to *anyone* experiencing a mental health

crisis. We are grateful for your sustained leadership in advancing that shared commitment and helping ensure the Lifeline provides appropriate support to those who turn to it for help.

The need for these services remains clear. Before 988 Press 3 was discontinued in July 2025, it had handled almost 1.6 million crisis contacts, demonstrating the significant demand for specialized support among LGBTQ+ young people. Restoring the service is an important part of responding to the broader youth mental health crisis and ensuring that LGBTQ+ youth facing heightened mental health and suicide risks can access appropriate crisis care.

To that end, as 988 Press 3 resumes operations, continued attention to implementation will be critical. The effectiveness of any crisis service depends not only on whether a call, text, or chat is answered, but also on whether the person responding has the training and competency necessary to provide appropriate, evidence-informed care. We encourage continued efforts to ensure that counselors serving LGBTQ+ young people receive clinically grounded training that equips them to understand and respond appropriately to those seeking help.

We also encourage you and your colleagues in Congress to build on this progress by continuing to monitor implementation of the restored service. Following more than a year without Press 3, attention to its visibility, accessibility, utilization, and quality will be important to ensuring that young people know where to turn for help and receive appropriate care when they do. Given the central role of congressional funding and direction in restoring these services, it is more important than ever that Congress continue to make its priorities clear and ensure that its directives are fully and faithfully implemented across the federal government.

Thank you again for your leadership, persistence, and commitment to ensuring that young people experiencing a mental health crisis can reach the help they need when they need it. MHLG and our member organizations look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen 988 and ensure that high-quality crisis care is available to all.

Sincerely,

Active Minds
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Psychological Association Services
Anxiety and Depression Association of America

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Clinical Social Work Association
Crisis Text Line
Epilepsy Foundation of America
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Inseparable
International OCD Foundation
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
Legal Action Center
Mental Health America
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Social Workers
National League of Nursing
National Register of Health Service Psychologists
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
REDC Consortium (Residential Eating Disorders Consortium)
Sandy Hook Promise
The American Counseling Association
The Jed Foundation
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health/Got Transition
The Trevor Project
Trust for America's Health