

I strongly support adopting a 3 digit number **specifically** for individuals at risk of suicide. It should be linked to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline) network and provide the necessary financial support for its implementation and increased call volume. The skills and oversight needed to help callers at risk of suicide (and concerned loved ones) are extremely different than those needed to provide linkage to food, shelter, legal aid, etc. Making sure people get the help they need from trained individuals should be of the utmost priority. Having a dedicated line with dedicated individuals specifically for this purpose would be more efficient and to the benefit of the person reaching out for assistance. Additionally, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network is available 24/7, 365 days of the year whereas not all 211 lines are.

These are some of the reasons why I support it standing separately from 211.

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