I strongly support implementing a new 3 digit phone number for people at risk of suicide. The number should be linked directly to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The number should be a standalone number like 611 or 988, and **not tied** into the 211 system. The needs of suicidal people, including veterans, are immediate, seconds count! Placing it under 211 makes no sense for numerous reasons. Including, but not limited to the fact not all 211 systems are 24/, 365, 211 systems are set up for external needs, not psychological needs. As a sheriff’s crisis negotiator, and a crisis line volunteer I speak from experience. Please do the right thing and help save lives!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Caudill

Downey, California