I support adopting a 3 digit number specifically for individuals who are at risk of suicide. It should be linked to the **existing** National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline) network and provide the financial support for its implementation and increased call volume.

It should be the Lifeline network using **611** or **988**: The aptitude needed to help callers at risk of suicide (and concerned loved ones) are different than those needed to provide linkage to other services such as food, shelter, legal aid, etc.

* The Lifeline network is requires all staff to be accredited in suicide prevention.
* The Lifeline network training is rooted in suicide assessment and safety planning.
* Research has shown that the protocols Lifeline counselors must follow are effective in reducing distress and suicidality.

It should **not** be 211.

* Not all 211 lines are up 24/7, 365 days a year.
* Only 25% of 211 lines are members of the Lifeline network.
  + Callers reaching the other 75% would not receive adequate care.
* 211 is for external needs, not psychological needs.
  + Only 7 % were categorized as mental health calls.