To Whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that you are considering making the Suicide Prevention Lifeline accessible only through the existing 211 menu and thus adding another step to saving the life of someone thinking about suicide. For those touched by suicide, either by losing a loved one or working to save those in a suicidal crisis, we understand that suicide can be an impulse decision. When a person in crisis has come up with a plan to take their own life and instead of acting on that plan, they make a phone call, the connection must be made before a decision that can not be taken back is made. That is why I am opposed to any action that delays the response time is any crisis intervention.

If you your self has never considered suicide, the importance of connecting to someone who cares may be lost on you but consider this: your loved ones may be considering suicide and you do not know. When they decide to take their own life, where will you be? I know where I am, waiting for their call. Please consider giving a person with hidden depression the chance to speak before they act, and that in a timely manner.

Suicide in preventable, please don’t stand in the way of saving the lives of people that YOU love.

Sincerely yours,

Jon Addis, Crisis Intervention Specialist