

December 6, 2018

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554



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Parrish Medical Center

Re: WC Docket No. 18-336 and CC Docket No. 92-105 regarding the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2018.

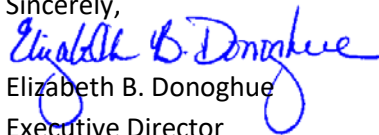
Dear Secretary Dortch,

2-1-1 Brevard, Inc. appreciates the opportunity to comment on the current effort undertaken by the Federal Communications Commission to study the feasibility of designating a three-digit number to the National Suicide Hotline and to assess the effectiveness of the current National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Our agency was the first in Florida and the seventh in the US to implement the 2-1-1 dialing code in 2001, through which it has provided crisis and suicide intervention along with connecting people to a wide range of community services since that time.

Along with many of my 2-1-1 colleagues and United Way Worldwide, I encourage the FCC to consider the current 211 network as a vital partner in increasing access to suicide prevention and intervention services. We believe that an investment in a three-digit system that is already working, and already answering calls from individuals in crisis, is the most cost-effective, efficient, and effective strategy to change the upward trend of suicide in the United States through a hotline.

Another three-digit code may erode the simplicity of a single point of access for community help, despite concerted efforts to educate and market the distinctions between various N11 options. We support investment of resources in a unified single point of access with a blended partnership of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and nationwide 211 services. We know it can work, because it has worked here for 17 years.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth B. Donoghue
Executive Director

