

December 10, 2018

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

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

Dear Madam,

United Way of Racine County 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. We fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in Racine County, with the ultimate goal of building an educated workforce. As part of that mission, we whole-heartedly support and believe in the 211 service that provides our neighbors with access to vital social and human services and resources every day – including suicide prevention and mental health resources.

As a funded partner of the United Way of Racine County, IMPACT has been the provider of 2-1-1 services to nine counties in Southeastern Wisconsin since the inception of 2-1-1 in 2002. In recent years they have assisted with nearly 300,000 requests for help through phone calls, chats, texts and online searches. The power of the partnership with 2-1-1 is that it is a trusted and reliable source of help. Many crisis/suicide callers already have an established relationship with the service, making it easy for them to make that critical call.

As is evident, I am writing this letter to you today because we care deeply about suicide prevention, our veterans, and proper continuum of care for those we serve. In the end, IMPACT 2-1-1 has demonstrated not only the viability of the 2-1-1 system as a first responder suicide hotline, but as an improvement in efficiency and effectiveness to the system.

We strongly encourage your consideration for the powerful network of the national 2-1-1 system.

Respectfully,



Rodney Prunty  
President and CEO  
United Way of Racine County