The National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2018 (Act) was signed into law on August 14, 2018.  The Act directs the Commission to (1) conduct a study that examines the feasibility of designating a simple, easy-to-remember, 3-digit dialing code to be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system; and (2) analyze how well the current National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is working to address the needs of veterans.[[2]](#_ftn2)

The Act also directs the Commission to coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the North American Numbering Council in conducting the study, and to produce a report on the study by August 14, 2019.  The Commission’s report must recommend whether a particular N11 dialing code or simple, easy-to-remember, 3-digit dialing code should be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system and, if so, the logistics and costs associated with designating such a dialing code, among other issues.

We are in favor of a 3 digit number for suicide prevention (they are thinking of 611) so callers have an easier time accessing this important resource, but funding must come with it.   Also, other organizations like 211 Info Line are vying to become the provider of this service which would be detrimental.  If they assign a 3 digit number, similar to 911 for emergencies, for suicide prevention we are advocating to have those calls go through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline where there are trained staff who can handle these types of calls and not a general info line, like 211.