

My name is Nathan Empsall, and I am a senior organizer at Care2.com, a community of 27 million people standing together for good. I am filing this Petition for Rulemaking on behalf of Daniel Davis - an Oregon resident, former Army captain, and decorated combat veteran - and the 30,188 Care2 members who signed [his Care2 petition](#) to the FCC.

Mr. Davis, myself, and the 30,188 signers are calling on the FCC to create a short, three-digit phone number for suicide and crisis hotlines.

Although all N11 numbers are in use to some degree, 611 or 811 are not officially assigned and could potentially be put into formal use for this life-saving purpose. While 611 is used broadly by carriers for repair service, in this era of smart phones, pre-programmed speed-dial numbers or apps can easily replace that function. Similarly, 811 is used by local exchanged carriers for business office use – a feature not enjoyed by other utility offices and, while important, not as important as saving lives. Another option that would likely not change any current exchange practices might be a vertical service code, similar to the well-known “star 69.”

It has been suggested that the organizations currently maintaining “211” could work with crisis hotline operators to include suicide assistance as one of the community services offered on 211. This is a good idea and one we are exploring, but although it would be better than the status-quo, it would also be less permanent, national, and well-known as a dedicated number just for suicide and crisis hotline purposes.

An Excel spreadsheet of the 30,188 Care2 petition signers is attached to this email. The text of the Care2 petition they signed is below. We would also like to call your attention to the personal comments that 614 of these signers included with their names, all of which are in the spreadsheet and six of which are included here below the petition text. These are very moving stories that highlight the importance of simplifying the suicide hotlines and providing faster help during crisis moments to suicidal veterans, teens, and other people.

Dear Commissioners,

We, the 30,188 attached signers of this petition, support the creation of a nationwide three-digit number for suicide hotlines.

22 U.S. veterans commit suicide every day, and it is the third leading cause of death among young adults aged 15-24. The FCC has the power to prevent some of these deaths -- and the suffering they bring to survivors -- simply by making the support these men and women need more accessible during their crisis moments. In the darkest times, every minute counts, but when a person is in crisis and desperate, it is nearly impossible to remember or even locate a long 800 number.

A simple three-digit number that everyone can remember is an easy solution, one that thousands of Americans need available right now.

Please help save these lives and take action today!

*Sincerely,
The attached 30,188 names*

Here are six of the many personal stories signers included with their names:

Geraldine in NJ

Please do all you can for suicide prevention, our family lost a young man who had been a Marine to suicide and there isn't a day that goes by I don't think of him and just wish there had been a way to know he was even thinking about it - I would give anything to turn back the clock and be able to stop it.

Laurie in IA

In my life, I have lost two teen boys to suicide--one was 12 (not quite a teen) and was likely being bullied before anyone was paying attention to bullying. The other had just graduated; before leaving for college where he'd be discovered as a 'fraud' (reference to his many successes and popularity), he left a long letter admitting years of depression.... His suicide triggered deep depression in my daughter. Make it easier to reach out!

Ann in OR

As a social worker who works with Veterans and who has worked with the general population in mental health/healthcare services, I believe it is essential to create a simpler way for people to get help. Great idea!

Phyllis in NY

As the sister of someone who committed suicide, I suspect that having a quick 3-digit number to call with someone to talk to immediately could possibly have saved his life.

Linda in FL

I lost my 18-year old son to suicide. We must do whatever we can to help this from happening to another family.

Norma in CA

Yes, to this need. Please provide the suicide-prevention hotline with a three-digit quick dial number. Suicide is such heartache for those left behind wondering if there could have been something they could have done to prevent it. My own niece committed suicide at age 33, leaving a 3-year old son behind. How to explain this to him? She jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge. There has been a suicide preventive

fence installed on the Golden Gate Bridge to prevent suicides there. We need to take quick action to prevent these tragically sad unnecessary suicides. Thank you.

Thank you for your attention to this petition. We look forward to the creation of a simple, three-digit phone number for suicide prevention hotlines.