



*NAMI New Hampshire released the following statement from Executive Director Kenneth Norton:*

## **Statement on Unanimous FCC Vote Supporting 3-Digit Number for National Suicide Prevention Lifeline July 17, 2020**

“As a member of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Steering Committee, I have been intimately involved in efforts over the last several years to create a 3-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The unanimous vote by the Federal Communications Commission on July 16, 2020, supporting the designation of 988 for that purpose, is a historic and significant step forward.

**As advocacy efforts for this initiative evolved, it was clear the 3-digit number needs to serve as a *mental health* crisis line, as well as a suicide prevention hotline.** In the future, individuals and families experiencing a mental health crisis will have another option besides calling 911 or going to an Emergency Department.

**NAMI NH will continue to advocate for statewide mobile crisis response teams in New Hampshire and the technological connectivity so that mobile crisis teams can be deployed via the new 3-digit number.**

While the FCC vote propelled this initiative forward, it is currently stalled in Congress. The bipartisan [Suicide Hotline Designation Act S.2661](#) passed the Senate unanimously on a voice vote in May, but the bill is currently stalled by partisan disagreements around additional COVID relief.

I remain optimistic that the bill will ultimately pass, be signed by the President, and receive the necessary funding support for the 2-year process required to make the number operational. In the meantime, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number remains 1-800-273-8255 (answered locally by Headrest in Lebanon, NH).  
Text NAMI to 741741 for the Crisis Text Line.”

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