

1 A RESOLUTION urging the Federal Communications Commission to adopt the
2 988 quick hotline number for suicide prevention.

3 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that
4 more than 47,000 people died by suicide and more than 1.4 million adults attempted
5 suicide in the United States in 2017 alone; and

6 WHEREAS, according to the CDC, from 1999 to 2016, suicide increased in 49 of
7 the 50 states, and in more than half of those states, the increase was greater than 20
8 percent; and

9 WHEREAS, suicide rates are higher across various at-risk populations, including
10 veterans and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) communities,
11 and teens; and

12 WHEREAS, more than 20 veterans die by suicide every day and between 2008 and
13 2016, there were more than 6,000 veteran suicides each year; and

14 WHEREAS, suicide is the second most common cause of death among teenagers
15 and young adults; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2017, the rate of suicides by teenage girls hit a 40-year high, and
17 between 1999 and 2014, the rate of suicide committed by girls ages 10 to 14 tripled; and

18 WHEREAS, a recent study also found that self-reported suicide attempts among
19 black teens increased by 73 percent between 1991 and 2017; and

20 WHEREAS, suicide rates are higher in the rural United States; in 2017, the suicide
21 rate for the most rural counties was 1.8 times the rate for the most urban counties in the
22 country; and

23 WHEREAS, in Kentucky in 2019, suicide was the second leading cause of death for
24 people aged 15 to 34 years; and

25 WHEREAS, in 2017 there were 770 deaths by suicide in Kentucky; more than four
26 times the number of people who died in alcohol related motor vehicle crashes; and

27 WHEREAS, data from 1,507 monitored calls from 1,140 suicidal individuals across

1 17 crisis centers showed that callers were significantly more likely to feel less depressed,
2 less suicidal, less overwhelmed and more hopeful by the end of calls; and

3 WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
4 concluded that designating a three digit number for a national suicide prevention and
5 mental health crisis hotline has the potential to play a key role in improving national crisis
6 intervention and suicide prevention efforts;

7 NOW, THEREFORE,

8 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
9 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

10 ➔Section 1. The Kentucky House of Representatives respectfully urges the
11 Federal Communications Commission to adopt 988 as the three digit dialing code for a
12 national suicide and mental health crisis hotline system.

13 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
14 copy of this Resolution to Ajit Pai, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, 445
15 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.