

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

President Trump's budget threatens to end specialized services for LGBTQ+ youth who contact 988, the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Ending this mental health support for youth in distress would devastate a vital resource for some of our nation's most vulnerable young people. This shortsighted and dangerous plan undermines 988's ability to provide tailored support for a population with a higher risk of suicide and will have lethal consequences if enacted. Surely you can agree that every American deserves the resources necessary to prevent suicide and self-injury, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

America has a youth mental health crisis, and LGBTQ+ youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their peers. The 988 hotline for LGBTQ+ youth has recently received an average of 2,100 contacts per day and, since 2022, it has received over 1.3 million calls, text, and chats. America's mental health crisis affects every community and every family knows someone who has experienced distress. Mental health crises do not recognize partisan differences, and this is why support for 988 and its specialized services has always been firmly bipartisan.

When Congress established the 988 lifeline, signed into law by President Trump during his first term, we intended it to be a resource for *any* American experiencing mental distress. To a young person feeling alone and scared, 988 is truly a lifeline. The specialized services it is able to provide to individuals with a higher risk of suicidality, such as LGBTQ+ youth and veterans, are especially vital to provide high-risk groups with custom support. Consideration of cutting off this life-saving resource to vulnerable youth and young adults goes against best practices in suicide prevention.

We urge that you scrap this ill-advised plan. Our nation's children deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,



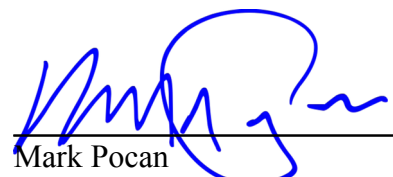
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



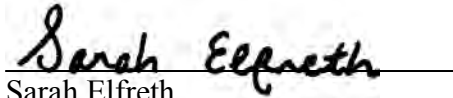
Raja Krishnamoorthi
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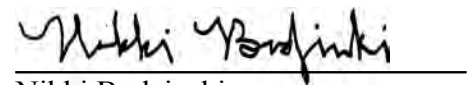



Mark Pocan
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
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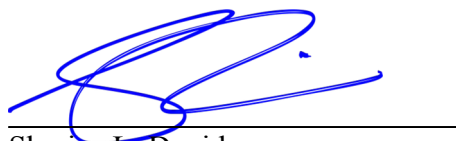

Nikki Budzinski
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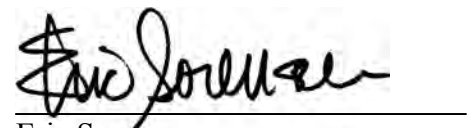

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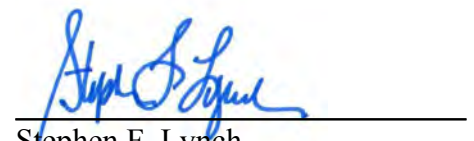

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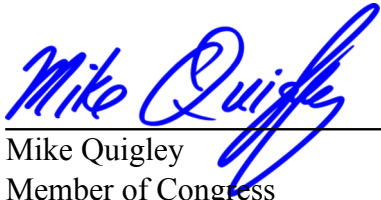

MARK TAKANO
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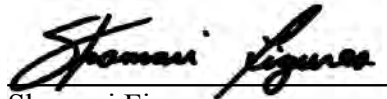
Ted W. Lieu
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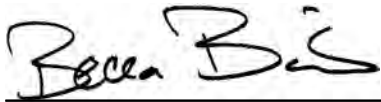
Robert Garcia
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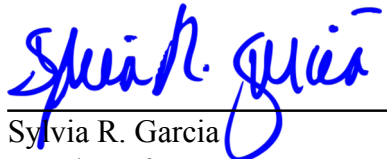
Mike Quigley
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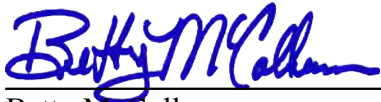
Shomari Figures
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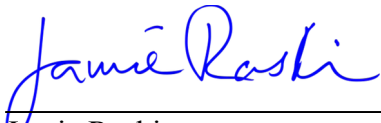
Sylvia R. Garcia
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Betty McCollum
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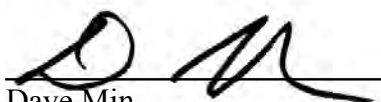
Frederica S. Wilson
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Jamie Raskin
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Delia C. Ramirez
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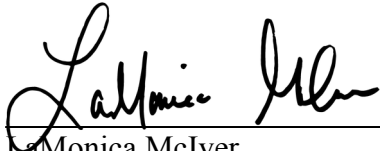
Lori Trahan
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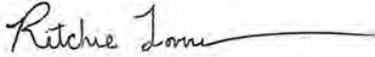
Josh Gottheimer
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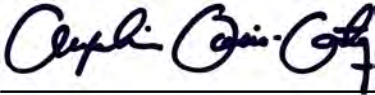
Kevin Mullin
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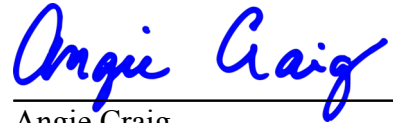
Ritchie Torres
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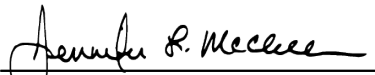
Darren Soto
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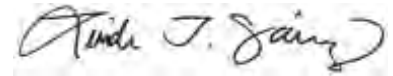
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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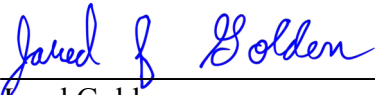
Angie Craig
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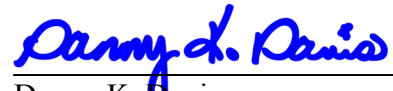
Jennifer L. McClellan
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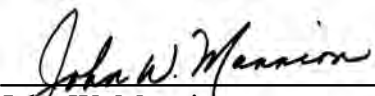
Linda T. Sánchez
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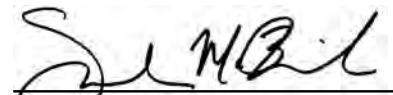
Jared Golden
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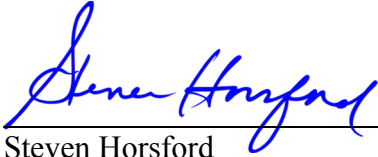
Danny K. Davis
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John W. Mannion
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Sarah McBride
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Steven Horsford
Member of Congress
Nevada's Fourth Congressional
District



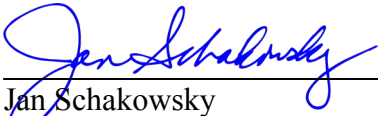
Chellie Pingree
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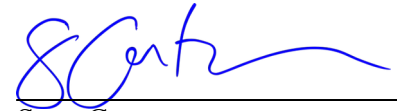
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



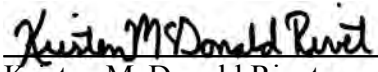
Julie Johnson
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Jan Schakowsky
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Sean Casten
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Kristen McDonald Rivet
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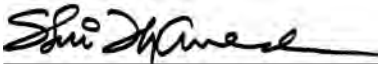
Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Suzan K. DelBene
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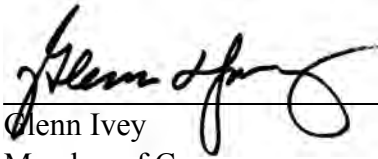
George Latimer
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Shri Thanedar
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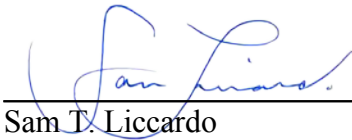
Ro Khanna
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Glenn Ivey
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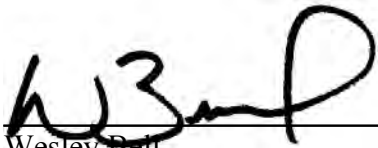
Jared Huffman
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Sam T. Liccardo
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Chris Pappas
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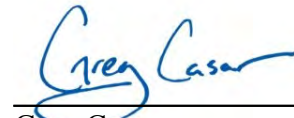
Wesley Bell
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Chrissy Houlahan
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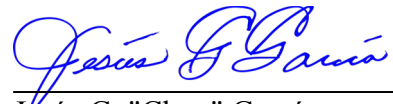
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



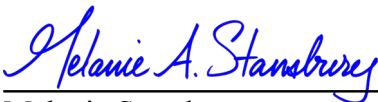
Greg Casar
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Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



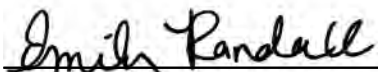
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



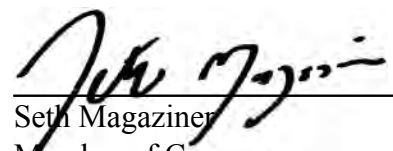
Melanie Stansbury
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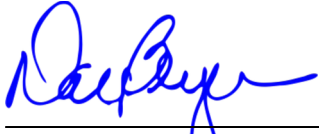
Lizzie Fletcher
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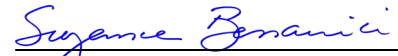
Emily Randall
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Seth Magaziner
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
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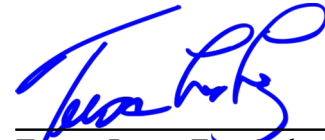
Ed Case
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
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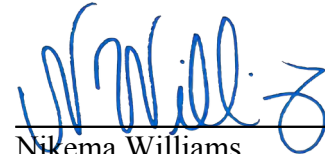
Robin L. Kelly
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Teresa Leger Fernandez
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Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
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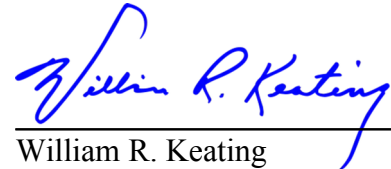
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



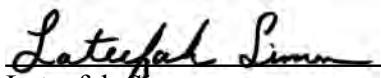
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



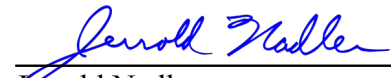
Mike Thompson
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William R. Keating
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Lateefah Simon
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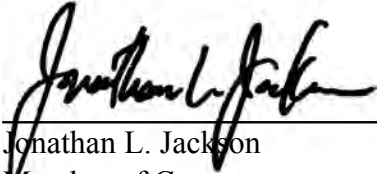
Jerrold Nadler
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Zoe Lofgren
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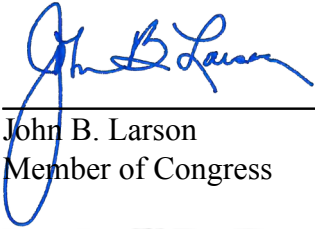
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



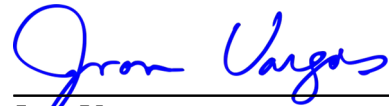
Jonathan L. Jackson
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J. Luis Correa
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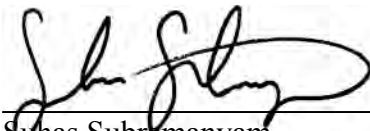
Juan Vargas
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Luz M. Rivas
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Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
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Maxine Dexter
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Valerie P. Foushee
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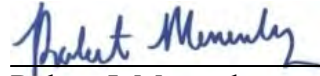
Mikie Sherrill
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Veronica Escobar
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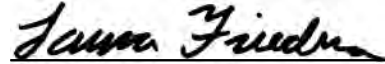
Dwight Evans
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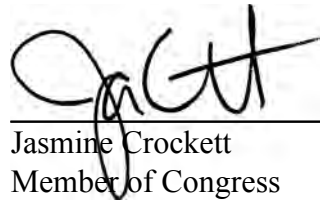
Diana DeGette
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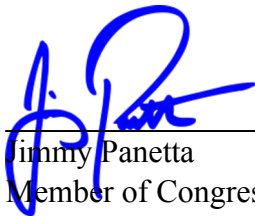
Jasmine Crockett
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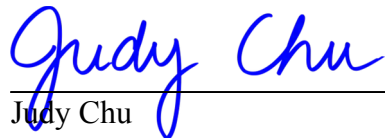
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