AMENDMENT NO. _______ Calendar No. _______

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.


S. 2661

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to designate 9–8–8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _______ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended to be proposed by _______

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

2

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2019”.

5

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, on average, there are 129 suicides per day in the United States.
(2) To prevent future suicides, it is critical to transition the cumbersome, existing 10-digit National Suicide Hotline to a universal, easy-to-remember, 3-digit phone number and connect people in crisis with life-saving resources.

(3) It is essential that people in the United States have access to a 3-digit national suicide hotline across all geographic locations.

(4) The designated suicide hotline number will need to be both familiar and recognizable to all people in the United States.

SEC. 3. UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS HOTLINE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(4) UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS HOTLINE SYSTEM.—9–8–8 is designated as the universal telephone number within the United States for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline maintained by the Assistant Secretary for Men-
tal Health and Substance Use under section 520E–
3 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
290bb–36c) and through the Veterans Crisis Line
maintained by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States
Code.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 1 year
after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) REQUIRED REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Sec-
retary for Mental Health and Substance Use and the Sec-
retary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit a report
that details the resources necessary to make the use of
9–8–8, as designated under paragraph (4) of section
251(c) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.
251(e)), as added by subsection (a) of this section, oper-
tional and effective across the United States to—

(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the
Senate;

(3) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
the House of Representatives; and
(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 4. STATE AUTHORITY OVER FEES.

(a) AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act, any amendment made by this Act, the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), or any Commission regulation or order may prevent the imposition and collection of a fee or charge applicable to a commercial mobile service or an IP-enabled voice service specifically designated by a State, a political subdivision of a State, an Indian Tribe, or village or regional corporation serving a region established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) for the support or implementation of 9-8-8 services, if the fee or charge is held in a sequestered account to be obligated or expended only in support of 9-8-8 services, or enhancements of such services, as specified in the provision of State or local law adopting the fee or charge.

(2) LIMIT ON FEE OR CHARGE.—For each class of subscribers to IP-enabled voice services, the fee or charge may not exceed the amount of any such fee
or charge applicable to the same class of subscribers
to telecommunications services.

(b) Fee Accountability Report.—To ensure effi-
ciency, transparency, and accountability in the collection
and expenditure of a fee or charge for the support or im-
plementation of 9-8-8 services, not later than 2 years
after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
thereafter, the Commission shall submit to the Commit-
tees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Ap-
propriations of the Senate and the Committees on Energy
and Commerce and Appropriations of the House of Rep-
resentatives a report that—

(1) details the status in each State of the collect-
ition and distribution of such fees or charges; and

(2) includes findings on the amount of revenues
obligated or expended by each State or political sub-
division thereof for any purpose other than the pur-
pose for which any such fees or charges are speci-
ified.

(c) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Commercial Mobile Service.—The term
"commercial mobile service" has the meaning given
that term under section 332(d) of the Communications
Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)).
(2) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Communications Commission.

(3) IP-ENABLED VOICE SERVICE.—The term "IP-enabled voice service" shall include—

(A) an interconnected VoIP service, as defined in section 9.3 of the title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto; and

(B) a one-way interconnected VoIP service.

(4) STATE.—The term "State" has the meaning given that term in section 7 of the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (47 U.S.C. 615b).

(5) TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE.—The term "telecommunications service" has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

SEC. 5. LOCATION IDENTIFICATION REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall submit to the appropriate committees a report that examines the feasibility and cost of including an automatic dispatchable location that would be conveyed with a 9-8-8 call, regardless of the technological platform used and including with calls from multi-
line telephone systems (as defined in section 6502 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1471)).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate committees” means the following:

(A) The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(B) The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(C) The Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) DISPATCHABLE LOCATION.—The term “dispatchable location” means the street address of the calling party and additional information such as room number, floor number, or similar information necessary to adequately identify the location of the calling party.

SEC. 6. REPORT ON CERTAIN TRAINING PROGRAMS.

(a) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (referred to in this section as “LGBTQ”) are more than 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide than their peers;
8.

(2) 1 in 5 LGBTQ youth and more than 1 in 3 transgender youth report attempting suicide this past year; and

(3) the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration must be equipped to provide specialized resources to this at-risk community.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) details a strategy, to be developed in consultation with 1 or more organizations with expertise in suicide of LGBTQ youth as well as 1 or more organizations with expertise in suicide of other high risk populations, for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to offer, support, or provide technical assistance to training programs for National Suicide Prevention Lifeline counselors to increase competency in serving LGBTQ youth and other high risk populations; and

(2) includes recommendations regarding—
(A) the facilitation of access to services that are provided to specially trained staff and partner organizations for LGBTQ individuals and other high risk populations; and

(B) a strategy for optimally implementing an Integrated Voice Response, or other equally effective mechanism, to allow National Suicide Prevention Lifeline callers who are LGBTQ youth or members of other high risk populations to access specialized services.