

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 498, With an Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)**

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 498

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to secure the suicide prevention lifeline from cybersecurity incidents, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 2023

Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself and Mr. CÁRDENAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to secure the suicide prevention lifeline from cybersecurity incidents, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “9–8–8 Lifeline Cyber-  
5 security Responsibility Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROTECTING SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE**  
2 **FROM CYBERSECURITY INCIDENTS.**

3 (a) NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE PRO-  
4 GRAM.—Section 520E–3(b) of the Public Health Service  
5 Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c(b)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the  
7 end;

8 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at  
9 the end and inserting “; and”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(6) taking such steps as may be necessary to  
12 ensure the suicide prevention hotline is protected  
13 from cybersecurity incidents and to eliminate known  
14 cybersecurity vulnerabilities of such hotline.”.

15 (b) REPORTING.—Section 520E–3 of the Public  
16 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c) is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-  
18 section (g); and

19 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-  
20 lowing:

21 “(f) CYBERSECURITY REPORTING.—

22 “(1) NOTIFICATION.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The program’s net-  
24 work administrator receiving Federal funding  
25 pursuant to subsection (a) shall report to the  
26 Assistant Secretary, in a manner that protects

1 personal privacy, consistent with applicable  
2 Federal and State privacy laws—

3 “(i) any identified cybersecurity vul-  
4 nerability to the program within a reason-  
5 able amount of time after identification of  
6 such a vulnerability; and

7 “(ii) any identified cybersecurity inci-  
8 dent to the program within a reasonable  
9 amount of time after identification of such  
10 an incident.

11 “(B) LOCAL AND REGIONAL CRISIS CEN-  
12 TERS.—Local and regional crisis centers par-  
13 ticipating in the program shall report to the  
14 program’s network administrator receiving Fed-  
15 eral funding pursuant to subsection (a), in a  
16 manner that protects personal privacy, con-  
17 sistent with applicable Federal and State pri-  
18 vacy laws—

19 “(i) any identified cybersecurity vul-  
20 nerability to the program within a reason-  
21 able amount of time after identification of  
22 such a vulnerability; and

23 “(ii) any identified cybersecurity inci-  
24 dent to the program within a reasonable

1 amount of time after identification of such  
2 an incident.

3 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—If the program’s network  
4 administrator receiving funding pursuant to sub-  
5 section (a) discovers, or is informed by a local or re-  
6 gional crisis center pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) of,  
7 a cybersecurity vulnerability or incident, within a  
8 reasonable amount of time after such discovery or  
9 receipt of information, such entity shall report the  
10 vulnerability or incident to the Assistant Secretary.

11 “(3) CLARIFICATION.—

12 “(A) OVERSIGHT.—

13 “(i) LOCAL AND REGIONAL CRISIS  
14 CENTER.—Except as provided in clause  
15 (ii), local and regional crisis centers par-  
16 ticipating in the program shall oversee all  
17 technology each center employs in the pro-  
18 vision of services as a participant in the  
19 program.

20 “(ii) NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR.—  
21 The program’s network administrator re-  
22 ceiving Federal funding pursuant to sub-  
23 section (a) shall oversee the technology  
24 each crisis center employs in the provision  
25 of services as a participant in the program

1 if such oversight responsibilities are estab-  
2 lished in the applicable network participa-  
3 tion agreement.

4 “(B) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—The  
5 cybersecurity incident reporting requirements  
6 under this subsection shall supplement, and not  
7 supplant, cybersecurity incident reporting re-  
8 quirements under other provisions of applicable  
9 Federal law that are in effect on the date of the  
10 enactment of the 9–8–8 Lifeline Cybersecurity  
11 Responsibility Act.”.

12 (c) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
13 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of  
14 the United States shall—

15 (1) conduct and complete a study that evaluates  
16 cybersecurity risks and vulnerabilities associated  
17 with the 9–8–8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline;  
18 and

19 (2) submit a report of the findings of such  
20 study to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of  
21 the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
22 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-  
23 ate.