



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**

June 26, 2020

The Honorable John Katko
U.S. Representative (NY-24)
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Katko,

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), the nation's largest organization dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, supports your efforts to improve crisis services in the United States. **We proudly endorse the *National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act (H.R.4564)* to support the quality and delivery of suicide prevention crisis services.**

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline), the most accessible suicide prevention resource in the country, receives over 2 million calls a year, yet most local crisis call centers are too under resourced to meet the demand for crisis services. Additional support must be provided to provide adequate services to callers in suicidal distress, and we believe that the *National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act (H.R.4564)* will improve the Lifeline's ability to effectively respond to callers in need.

By increasing Lifeline funding to fortify capacity and ensure quality, by leveraging innovative technologies, and further identifying areas of opportunity to improve our national crisis hotline system this legislation can save lives.

Thank you for your leadership and for prioritizing suicide prevention. We urge your colleagues in Congress to swiftly pass this important legislation into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Madigan".

John H. Madigan

Senior Vice President and

Chief Public Policy Officer

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention