



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**

June 25, 2020

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
U.S. Representative (FL-12)
2227 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bilirakis,

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 the management of suicide risk in health systems. **We proudly endorse the *Effective Suicide Screening and Assessment in the Emergency Department Act (H.R.4861)* to improve the suicide prevention response in Emergency Departments.**

Emergency Departments present a key opportunity to identify and treat the individuals at the highest and most immediate risk for suicide. Nearly 40% of all individuals who die by suicide make an Emergency Department visit in the year prior to their death. More work must be done to promote suicide prevention in these critical settings, and we believe that the *Effective Suicide Screening and Assessment in the Emergency Department Act (H.R.4861)* will enact much needed policies to effectively reinforce suicide preventions in Emergency Departments.

By improving the identification, assessment, and treatment of suicide risk in Emergency Departments this legislation can save lives.

Thank you for your leadership and thank you 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