

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9260

To prohibit the use of mail or interstate communications to assist suicide,  
and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 31, 2022

Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself, Mr. CAREY, Mr. STEWART, and Ms. PORTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To prohibit the use of mail or interstate communications  
to assist suicide, 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 “Stop Online Suicide  
5 Assistance Forums Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ASSISTED SUICIDE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 51 of title 18, United  
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
9 lowing:

1 **“§ 1123. Prohibiting assisted suicide through certain**  
2 **communications**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever uses mail or interstate  
4 communication to intentionally assist another individual in  
5 taking that individual’s own life, and death results, shall  
6 be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5  
7 years, or both.

8 “(b) LIMITATION.—Any action taken in accordance  
9 with State laws governing physician-assisted end of life  
10 shall not constitute an offense under subsection (a).

11 “(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

12 “(1) STATE LAWS.—Nothing in this section  
13 shall preempt the authority of a State to enact laws  
14 relating to assisted suicide within such State.

15 “(2) SUICIDE.—Nothing in this section shall be  
16 interpreted to make unlawful or otherwise crim-  
17 inalize the act of suicide or deliberate self-injury, or  
18 punish the person committing any such act.

19 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) ASSIST.—The term ‘assist’ means, with re-  
21 spect to a person assisting another individual in tak-  
22 ing that individual’s own life, that—

23 “(A) the person specifically aims to facili-  
24 tate the individual’s suicide; and

25 “(B) the person furnishes the individual  
26 with substantial material support to facilitate

1           the suicide, or with substantial communication  
2           facilitating the suicide at the same time as an  
3           attempt or act of suicide is occurring.

4           “(2) MATERIAL SUPPORT.—The term ‘material  
5           support’ means any tangible property.”.

6           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of section  
7           for chapter 51 of title 18, United States Code, is amended  
8           by adding at the end the following:

“1123. Prohibiting assisted suicide through certain communications.”.

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