

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8367

To amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance outreach to first responders in the implementation of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 2026

Mrs. CAMMACK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance outreach to first responders in the implementation of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline program, 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 “Answering the Call
5 Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE PRO-**
2 **GRAM: OUTREACH TO FIRST RESPONDERS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 520E–3 of the Public
4 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
6 section (h); and

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(g) OUTREACH TO FIRST RESPONDERS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
11 duct outreach activities to address barriers to use of
12 the 9–8–8 national suicide hotline by first respond-
13 ers, including stigma, lack of tailored services, and
14 privacy concerns.

15 “(2) ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of paragraph
16 (1), the Secretary shall—

17 “(A) in coordination with first responder
18 organizations, carry out programs and activities
19 to promote the 9–8–8 national suicide hotline
20 as a key mental health resource for first re-
21 sponders;

22 “(B) award grants, contracts, or coopera-
23 tive agreements to support public awareness
24 campaigns that integrate information about the
25 9–8–8 national suicide hotline into first re-
26 sponder training programs, wellness policies,

1 and resources maintained by labor organiza-
2 tions;

3 “(C) collect data on the use of the 9–8–8
4 national suicide hotline by first responders to
5 measure the impact of the hotline and inform
6 future outreach strategies of the Secretary; and

7 “(D) develop and disseminate training pro-
8 grams for counselors and other staff of the 9–
9 8–8 national suicide hotline that incorporate
10 evidence-based, trauma-informed, and behav-
11 ioral-health-focused best practices that are spe-
12 cific to first responders.

13 “(3) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—In collecting
14 data under paragraph (2)(C), the Secretary—

15 “(A) shall ensure that the data collected is
16 administered in a manner that protects per-
17 sonal privacy, consistent with applicable Fed-
18 eral and State privacy laws, including through
19 aggregation and de-identification of the data;

20 “(B) shall focus on identifying trends in
21 presenting issues and utilization of the 9–8–8
22 national suicide hotline for populations served
23 among first responders, rather than collecting
24 personally identifiable information; and

1 “(C) may work in collaboration with State
2 and local partners and use existing public
3 health reporting mechanisms.

4 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

5 “(A) FIRST RESPONDER.—The term ‘first
6 responder’ includes law enforcement officers,
7 firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and
8 public safety telecommunicators.

9 “(B) FIRST RESPONDER ORGANIZATION.—
10 The term ‘first responder organization’ includes
11 national, State, local, Tribal, and nonprofit fire-
12 fighter, law enforcement, emergency medical
13 services, and public safety telecommunicator or-
14 ganizations that are recognized for their experi-
15 ence and expertise in fire prevention and safety
16 programs and activities, including labor organi-
17 zations, professional associations, and peer sup-
18 port and behavioral health organizations serving
19 first responders.”.

20 (b) FIRST RESPONDER ORGANIZATIONS COLLABORA-
21 TION PILOT PROGRAM.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
23 Human Services, acting through the Assistant Sec-
24 retary for Mental Health and Substance Use, shall

1 conduct a pilot program to provide for collaboration
2 between—

3 (A) the Substance Abuse and Mental
4 Health Services Administration;

5 (B) the United States Fire Administration;
6 and

7 (C) first responder organizations.

8 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the pilot pro-
9 gram shall be to ensure that outreach activities con-
10 ducted under section 520E–3(g) of the Public
11 Health Service Act (as inserted by subsection (a) of
12 this section) are appropriately tailored to increase
13 awareness of the 9–8–8 national suicide hotline
14 among first responders.

15 (3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3
16 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the
17 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall sub-
18 mit to Congress a report on the results of the pilot
19 program conducted under this subsection.

20 (4) DEFINITIONS.—The definitions in section
21 520E–3(g) of the Public Health Service Act (as in-
22 serted by subsection (a) of this section) shall apply
23 to this subsection.

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