



"Saving Lives in Tennessee"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TSPN Recognizes President's Signature of "National Hotline Improvement Act of 2018"

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) wishes to recognize President Donald Trump's signature of H.R. 2345 "National Hotline Improvement Act of 2018" into law yesterday, August 14, 2018. This law requires the Federal Communications Commission, in coordination with the Departments of Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs, to study the feasibility of designating a three-digit dialing code for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system.

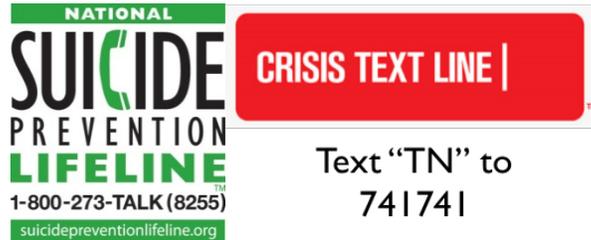
A three-digit dialing code will allow for ease of use, similar to 911, for mental health/ crisis emergencies. More than 36,000 calls are made to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK (8255)) each year from residents of Tennessee using this number. We are very fortunate to have members of Congress of the House that cosponsored this Act from Tennessee, Representative David Roe, Representative Jim Cooper, and Representative Marsha Blackburn. This Act was passed in the Senate in 2017.

TSPN's Executive Director, Scott Ridgway, MS, expressed his enthusiasm for the passing of this Act, stating "the ability to have a three-digit number to call for suicide prevention would be extraordinary for those who have and will experience suicide ideations. The ease of access, similar to 911, has been in use in various countries to great success."

In any given day, three people in Tennessee die by suicide. In 2016, the number suicides increased in young people (ages 10-18) in Tennessee, with one person in this age group lost to suicide every week. TSPN recommends that all familiarize themselves with the warning signs of suicide (listed at

<http://tspn.org/warning-signs>) so they can get help for themselves and those around them as needed.

TSPN is also available to provide a free suicide prevention or awareness trainings across the state; to request a training visit our website (<http://tspn.org/request-training-now>).



TTY line: 1-800-799-4TTY (4889)

For non-emergency information on suicide prevention, contact the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network at (615) 297-1077 or tspn@tspn.org. More information about TSPN is available at the agency website (www.tspn.org).

TSPN is the statewide public-private organization responsible for implementing the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention. TSPN and its volunteers work across the state to organize activities & projects promoting suicide prevention awareness, providing suicide prevention & crisis intervention training to community organizations, and conducting postvention sessions for schools & organizations after suicides occur.