



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF MICHELE ABBOTT, KANSAS NG911 TRAINING &  
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR,  
REGARDING HB2281  
BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
REPRESENTATIVE BLAINE FINCH, CHAIR**

Chairman Finch, and Members of the House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear and express the concerns of the Kansas 911 Coordinating Council regarding HB2281.

The Kansas 911 Coordinating Council supports the creation of 988 as the national suicide prevention three-digit access. A three-digit number will result in a more readily accessible means for individuals in crisis in receiving support at times of need. The Council has engaged with the 988-planning committee to provide support in their planning activities and will continue to provide support in developing training and interconnection with 911 Centers across the state.

While the Council does not necessarily believe that a telephone surcharge is the most appropriate means of funding 988, it does not oppose the idea. The Council does feel that it is imperative that any fee assessed as a telephone surcharge for 988 purposes be clearly and separately defined from the existing 911 surcharge. The two fees should stand distinctly separate from one another on customer billings to eliminate any confusion on the part of the consumer base as to what these surcharges are funding.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this briefing. I stand for questions.

Michele Abbott  
Training & Communications Coordinator  
Kansas 911 Coordinating Council