

first call

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February 10, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of establishing and implementing 988 as the Kansas suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline.

First Call, a Kansas City metro area non-profit, has been operating a Crisis Call line for over 63 years. We served over 1,798 Johnson County individuals in the last six months of 2021. Throughout the last two years, we have seen the severity of crisis calls increase. The need for a 988 service in Kansas is great.

As a participating member in the regional group working on a similar project in Missouri, we see the need and community drive for this service, and believe it would be just as impactful in Kansas. We look forward to being a continued part of this conversation, and encourage you to make that possible.

Thank you for your time,



Emily Hage
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