

BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

1ST DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

**BIPARTISAN
PROBLEM SOLVERS CAUCUS
CHAIRMAN**

271 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4276

1717 LANGHORNE-NEWTOWN RD.
SUITE 225
LANGHORNE, PA 19047
(215) 579-8102



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

COMMITTEES

INTELLIGENCE
CHAIRMAN

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA)

WAYS AND MEANS
TAX
HEALTH

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
INTELLIGENCE LIAISON

NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

June 20, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

I write to you to express my urgent concerns surrounding the reports that the Specialized Services for LGBTQ youth within the 988 Suicide Prevention and Crisis Lifeline will be eliminated.¹

Since 2022, this “press 3” option within the 988 Suicide Prevention and Crisis Lifeline has served nearly 1.3 million callers. Suspending a program designed to act as an empathetic and humane voice for vulnerable LGBTQ youth would be a dangerous setback in managing our nation’s ongoing mental health crisis. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has reported that there were over 49,300 suicides in 2023, nearly the highest in our nation’s history.² And further CDC studies have shown that LGBTQ youth have a higher risk of suicide.³

Access to mental health care is an urgent problem in our nation, and we must ensure that vulnerable groups, especially our children, have adequate access to suicide prevention tools and services. Disbanding this specialized service will likely lead to increases in preventable suicides, hospitalizations, and greater mental health consequences for LGBTQ youth and their families and support systems.

I request an update on the status of the hotline, and I urge you to work to ensure the necessary personnel and infrastructure of the Lifeline’s Specialized Services remain in place. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the Administration to address our nation’s mental health crisis and supporting our children.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

¹Devi Shastri, 2025, *Trump administration removing 988 hotline service tailored to LGBTQ+ youth in July*
<https://apnews.com/article/988-lgbtq-suicide-prevention-hotline-trump-382342828b381b6a32964f09fe9aa59c>

² Garnett MF, Curtin SC. Suicide mortality in the United States, 2002–2022. NCHS Data Brief, no 509. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2024. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc/160504>.

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/factsheets/dash-mental-health.pdf>