



REGARDING:

**WC Docket No. 18-336**

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING  
IN THE MATTER OF THE NATIONAL SUICIDE  
HOTLINE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2018

SUBMITTED BY:  
DAVID ASHENHURST  
CHIEF GOVERNANCE  
OFFICER

ELAINE GEORGAS  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

ON BEHALF OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FOR THE

MENTAL HEALTH,  
ADDICTION AND  
RECOVERY SERVICES  
(MHARS) BOARD OF  
LORAIN COUNTY

1173 NORTH RIDGE  
ROAD EAST, SUITE 101  
LORAIN, OHIO 44055

SUBMITTED TO:  
MARLENE H. DORTCH  
FCC OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY  
445 12TH STREET, SW  
ROOM TW-B204  
WASHINGTON, DC  
20554

**Resolution Supporting National Three-Digit Suicide Prevention Hotline**

WHEREAS, suicide is a serious public health issue that can have lasting harmful effects on affected individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, suicide deaths are increasing nationwide, and broader support for suicide prevention for all ages has become a vital necessity; and

WHEREAS, suicide prevention is a major priority of both the Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services (MHARS) Board of Lorain County, Ohio, and of Lorain County's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP); and

WHEREAS, the national suicide prevention hotline was launched in 2005, and its network now includes more than 163 local crisis centers staffed by trained counselors, and last year received 2.2 million calls; and

WHEREAS, the national hotline can be an essential link to our own local Emergency Stabilization Services (ESS) response unit and crisis hotline, when the person in need is a Lorain County resident; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2019, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a proposal that recommends simplifying the national 10-digit suicide prevention hotline number to a three-digit number, in order to improve access to mental health care options and to crisis counselors for persons experiencing psychiatric crisis, and opened the topic for public comment; and

WHEREAS, the plan for a national three-digit suicide prevention hotline has been endorsed by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); and

WHEREAS, the MHARS Board of Directors supports effective strategies to promote awareness of suicide prevention while also promoting effective crisis response, and is joining its voice with those of other mental health advocates nationwide who are supporting a three-digit suicide prevention hotline, during the FCC's public comment period;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services (MHARS) Board of Lorain County, Ohio, endorses the plan to create a national three-digit suicide prevention hotline, recommending that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) vote to accept the plan and devote all necessary resources to making its implementation successful.

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**David Ashenurst**  
**Chief Governance Officer**

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**Elaine Georgas**  
**Interim Executive Director**