

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN
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AGN. NO.
December 9, 2025

Supporting the 988 LGBTQ+ Youth Access Act of 2025

On July 17, 2025, the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration terminated the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline’s “Press 3” option for LGBTQ+ youth. This specialized 988 Lifeline option was essential – it routed callers who pressed “3” to trained counselors and a subnetwork of contact centers that specialize in LGBTQ+ mental health support, ensuring that youth in crisis received culturally competent care tailored to their unique needs. In anticipation of the termination of the “Press 3” option and its funding coming to an end, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) unanimously approved a motion¹ that directed the County’s Chief Executive Office Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (CEO-LAIR) team and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to report back on the impact of the eliminated funding, as well as potential options to continue providing linkages between the County’s 988 hotline and hotlines that specialize in care for LGBTQ+ youth. While the County is continuing to explore ways to reinstate the “Press 3” option locally and at the state level, the ideal outcome is to have this critical service restored nationwide.

On September 17, 2025, bipartisan legislation was introduced in the U.S. Senate

¹ <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/205183.pdf>

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and U.S. House of Representatives, with the goal of restoring the 988 Lifeline’s LGBTQ+ youth specialized services across the country. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) introduced S. 2826,² while Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) introduced H.R. 5434,³ which is co-sponsored by Representatives Michael Lawler (R-NY), Sharice Davids (D-KS), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and Seth Moulton (D-MA). These bills, known collectively as the 988 LGBTQ+ Youth Access Act of 2025, would protect specialized mental health services for LGBTQ+ youth by codifying the “Press 3” option into law, and establishing dedicated resources to reinstate, operate, and maintain this vital service.

The Board of Supervisors has long prioritized mental health access and suicide prevention, particularly for LGBTQ+ youth, who face disproportionately high risks. LGBTQ+ youth are four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers, and last year, nearly 40% of LGBTQ+ youth in the United States seriously considered attempting suicide.⁴ Among those who sought help, almost half were unable to access mental health services due to barriers at home or at school. The “Press 3” option served as an accessible and affirming first step for young people in crisis, often their only safe lifeline, and the County must prioritize this resource as a potential lifesaving service for this vulnerable population. In the midst of a national youth mental health crisis, Los Angeles County should join bipartisan leaders in supporting federal action to restore the 988 “Press 3” option and ensure that no call for help goes unanswered.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive

² <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/2826/text?s=2&r=1>

³ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/5434/text?s=1&r=1&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22988+LGBTQ%2B+Youth+Access+Act%22%7D>

⁴ <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2024/>

Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to support S. 2826 and H.R. 5434, the 988 LGBTQ+ Youth Access Act of 2025, and similar measures.

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