

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

Pursuing a Statewide and Local Los Angeles County Pilot for A Specialized “Press 3” Option of 988 for LGBTQ+ Youth Callers

On July 15, 2025, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) unanimously approved a motion¹ that aimed to address the devastating elimination of the federal 988 “Press 3” option. This specialized option, funded by the federal government through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), provided a specific suicide prevention hotline option for LGBTQ+ youth. The July motion directed the Chief Executive Office’s Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (CEO-LAIR) branch and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to report back to the Board on both the impact of the federal directive that cut funding for the 988 “Press 3” option, and on an analysis of how the line can be restored in Los Angeles County. In their September report², CEO-LAIR and DMH described the initial impacts of the “Press 3” funding cut, and included various challenges with modifying the federal level “Press 3” option as a means of developing potential statewide and local options.” In November, DMH submitted an additional report³ that outlined several recommendations to re-establish a 988 “Press

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

² https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/1191378_090525_ReportBackon988FundingCutsforLGBTQ_Services.pdf

³ <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/205295.pdf>

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3” option, including by restoring “Press 3” through State legislation and by creating a local “Press 3” pilot that would only apply to Los Angeles County.

To pursue the statewide option, the report recommended collaborating with Assemblymember Mark González, who will be submitting a bill during the upcoming legislative cycle that would fund and re-instate a statewide specialized 988 subnetwork for LGBTQ+ youth across California. The County should co-sponsor this bill to demonstrate its commitment to and support of restoring crisis mental health care for LGBTQ+ youth, and so the Department of Mental Health can provide feedback that can be incorporated into the statewide “Press 3” option design. Additionally, the report outlined the steps needed to move forward with a local “Press 3” option. The local option would require approval by SAMHSA pursuant to a formal request from the California Health and Human Service Agency (CalHHS). If approved, it would involve implementation by Vibrant, the administrator of the 988 phone tree that routes callers to specialized subnetworks like the LGBTQ+ youth line, to restore the “Press 3” option specifically for callers located in Los Angeles County. This local option would also require that the County identify and fund one or more contracted crisis intervention service providers to provide counseling for LGBTQ+ youth who call, chat, or text 988 and select the “Press 3” option.

The County should move forward with establishing a local pilot, as outlined in the November report, while simultaneously pursuing a statewide option to ensure services are restored as soon as possible for LGBTQ+ youth in Los Angeles County. The County must pursue every avenue possible to reinstate suicide prevention hotline services for LGBTQ+ youth.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors do the following:

1. Direct the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to develop a proposal for a local “Press 3” pilot program for Los Angeles County answered by a crisis-intervention service provider and to submit the proposal to the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS). The proposal should include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. Requesting approval from the Substance and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to allow Los Angeles County to fund and implement a “Press 3 Option” specifically for callers, and potentially chatters and texters, located in Los Angeles County, and to authorize Vibrant to work with DMH to create a unique phone tree for Los Angeles County that includes the “Press 3 Option”;
 - b. Initiating a procurement to select contracted service provider/s to provide specialized LGBTQ+ youth counseling services over the phone via the “Press 3” option;
 - c. Creating a budget for the pilot program and identifying potential sources of funding; and
 - d. Developing a timeline for implementation of the pilot program, if approved by CalHHS and SAMHSA.
2. Direct the Chief Executive Office’s Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to co-sponsor or support state legislation that would implement a statewide “Press 3 Option” for California that is consistent with Los Angeles County’s local “Press 3 Option” proposal.

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