

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 8367

To amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance outreach to first responders in the implementation of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 2026

Mrs. CAMMACK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance outreach to first responders in the implementation of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Answering the Call  
5 Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE PRO-**  
2 **GRAM: OUTREACH TO FIRST RESPONDERS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 520E–3 of the Public  
4 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-  
6 section (h); and

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-  
8 lowing:

9 “(g) OUTREACH TO FIRST RESPONDERS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-  
11 duct outreach activities to address barriers to use of  
12 the 9–8–8 national suicide hotline by first respond-  
13 ers, including stigma, lack of tailored services, and  
14 privacy concerns.

15 “(2) ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of paragraph  
16 (1), the Secretary shall—

17 “(A) in coordination with first responder  
18 organizations, carry out programs and activities  
19 to promote the 9–8–8 national suicide hotline  
20 as a key mental health resource for first re-  
21 sponders;

22 “(B) award grants, contracts, or coopera-  
23 tive agreements to support public awareness  
24 campaigns that integrate information about the  
25 9–8–8 national suicide hotline into first re-  
26 sponder training programs, wellness policies,

1 and resources maintained by labor organiza-  
2 tions;

3 “(C) collect data on the use of the 9–8–8  
4 national suicide hotline by first responders to  
5 measure the impact of the hotline and inform  
6 future outreach strategies of the Secretary; and

7 “(D) develop and disseminate training pro-  
8 grams for counselors and other staff of the 9–  
9 8–8 national suicide hotline that incorporate  
10 evidence-based, trauma-informed, and behav-  
11 ioral-health-focused best practices that are spe-  
12 cific to first responders.

13 “(3) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—In collecting  
14 data under paragraph (2)(C), the Secretary—

15 “(A) shall ensure that the data collected is  
16 administered in a manner that protects per-  
17 sonal privacy, consistent with applicable Fed-  
18 eral and State privacy laws, including through  
19 aggregation and de-identification of the data;

20 “(B) shall focus on identifying trends in  
21 presenting issues and utilization of the 9–8–8  
22 national suicide hotline for populations served  
23 among first responders, rather than collecting  
24 personally identifiable information; and

1           “(C) may work in collaboration with State  
2           and local partners and use existing public  
3           health reporting mechanisms.

4           “(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

5           “(A) FIRST RESPONDER.—The term ‘first  
6           responder’ includes law enforcement officers,  
7           firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and  
8           public safety telecommunicators.

9           “(B) FIRST RESPONDER ORGANIZATION.—  
10          The term ‘first responder organization’ includes  
11          national, State, local, Tribal, and nonprofit fire-  
12          fighter, law enforcement, emergency medical  
13          services, and public safety telecommunicator or-  
14          ganizations that are recognized for their experi-  
15          ence and expertise in fire prevention and safety  
16          programs and activities, including labor organi-  
17          zations, professional associations, and peer sup-  
18          port and behavioral health organizations serving  
19          first responders.”.

20          (b) FIRST RESPONDER ORGANIZATIONS COLLABORA-  
21          TION PILOT PROGRAM.—

22                 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
23                 Human Services, acting through the Assistant Sec-  
24                 retary for Mental Health and Substance Use, shall

1       conduct a pilot program to provide for collaboration  
2       between—

3               (A) the Substance Abuse and Mental  
4       Health Services Administration;

5               (B) the United States Fire Administration;  
6       and

7               (C) first responder organizations.

8               (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the pilot pro-  
9       gram shall be to ensure that outreach activities con-  
10      ducted under section 520E–3(g) of the Public  
11      Health Service Act (as inserted by subsection (a) of  
12      this section) are appropriately tailored to increase  
13      awareness of the 9–8–8 national suicide hotline  
14      among first responders.

15              (3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3  
16      years after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
17      Secretary of Health and Human Services shall sub-  
18      mit to Congress a report on the results of the pilot  
19      program conducted under this subsection.

20              (4) DEFINITIONS.—The definitions in section  
21      520E–3(g) of the Public Health Service Act (as in-  
22      serted by subsection (a) of this section) shall apply  
23      to this subsection.

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