



Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

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June 9, 2026

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Krishnamoorthi:

Thank you for your letters to Secretary Kennedy urging the Department of Health and Human Services to restart specialized services for LGBTQ+ youth within the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. He asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

The [Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2026](#) includes statutory language stating that amounts made available for 988 Lifeline appropriations “shall be for the purposes described in the report accompanying this Act.” This provision directs the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to follow the guidance in [Senate Report 118–84](#), which includes restoring \$33,100,000 for Specialized Services for LGBTQ+ Youth, including the 988 “Press 3” option. The language specifically requires SAMHSA to provide specialized services for LGBTQ+ youth, including training for existing counselors in LGBTQ+ youth cultural competency and the establishment and operation of an Integrated Voice Response to transfer LGBTQ+ youth to a specialty organization.

SAMHSA is currently assessing the most appropriate approach to implementing this congressional directive for the “Press 3” option within the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, while ensuring compliance with Executive Order 14168. Regardless, the 988 Lifeline will continue to serve all callers, providing 24/7 access to skilled, caring, and culturally competent crisis counselors for individuals experiencing suicidal, substance use, or mental health crises.

If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation at (202) 690-7627.

Sincerely,

Christopher Carroll, MSc
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Mental Health and Substance Use

Cc:

Hon. Sharice L. Davids

Hon. Brian Fitzpatrick

Hon. Michael V. Lawler
Hon. Seth Moulton