

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write regarding the continued efforts to restore the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline’s “Press 3” specialized services for LGBTQ+ youth, and to follow up on a February 2026 bipartisan letter led by Members of Congress urging the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to immediately reinstate these services, consistent with clear Congressional direction and appropriated funding.¹

During recent testimony before Congress, you stated that the Department is “working on getting [the LGBTQ+ line] up now.”² While that commitment is welcome, these services remain unavailable, leaving a critical gap in care for a population Congress has explicitly directed HHS to support.

Additionally, new evidence underscores the urgency of reinstating the Press 3 option. A study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that the 988 Lifeline has been associated with thousands fewer youth suicide deaths nationwide, including an approximately 11 percent reduction among young people since its launch.³ Researchers and public reporting further emphasize that specialized services for high-risk populations—including LGBTQ+ youth—are a key component of the program’s effectiveness.⁴

At the same time, LGBTQ+ youth remain at significantly elevated risk of suicide compared to their peers, underscoring the need for targeted, culturally competent crisis support.⁵

Taken together, these facts are straightforward: the 988 Lifeline is saving lives, Congress has directed that these services be maintained, and yet the specialized LGBTQ+ line remains offline.

Congress appropriated \$33.1 million in Fiscal Year 2026 to sustain these specialized services. Allowing them to remain offline not only undermines Congressional intent but fails to execute on a clear directive to provide targeted, evidence-based support for high-risk populations.

Accordingly, we request responses to the following by May 21, 2026:

1. What is the timeline for fully restoring the 988 “Press 3” LGBTQ+ specialized services nationwide?
2. What steps has HHS taken to implement Congress’s directive and deploy appropriated funding?

¹ [Letter from Members of Congress to HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. regarding restoration of LGBTQ+ 988 specialized services \(Feb. 11, 2026\)](#)

² [Shannon Firth, “Trump Administration to Revive Axed 988 Line for LGBTQ+ Youth in Crisis,” *MedPage Today* \(Apr. 24, 2026\)](#)

³ [Patel VR, Liu M, Jena AB. Suicide Mortality Among Adolescents and Young Adults After Launch of a Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Published online April 22, 2026. doi:10.1001/jama.2026.5157](#)

⁴ [Shannon Firth, “Trump Administration to Revive Axed 988 Line for LGBTQ+ Youth in Crisis,” *MedPage Today* \(Apr. 24, 2026\)](#)

⁵ [The Trevor Project, “2024 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health.”](#)

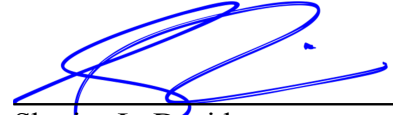
3. What barriers, if any, are delaying restoration, and what actions is the Department taking to resolve them?
4. How will HHS ensure these services remain fully operational and accessible once restored?

Given the demonstrated impact of 988 and the heightened risk faced by LGBTQ+ youth, these services should be restored without further delay. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress