

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 498

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to secure the suicide prevention lifeline from cybersecurity incidents, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 2023

Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself and Mr. CÁRDENAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to secure the suicide prevention lifeline from cybersecurity incidents, 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 “9–8–8 Lifeline Cyber-
5 security Responsibility Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROTECTING SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE**
7 **FROM CYBERSECURITY INCIDENTS.**

8 (a) SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE.—Section
9 520E–3(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
10 290bb–36c(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the
2 end;

3 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at
4 the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(6) coordinating with the Chief Information
7 Security Officer of the Department of Health and
8 Human Services to take such steps as may be nec-
9 essary to ensure the program is protected from cy-
10 bersecurity incidents and eliminates known cyberse-
11 curity vulnerabilities.”.

12 (b) REPORTING.—Section 520E–3 of the Public
13 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c) is amended—

14 (1) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
15 section (g); and

16 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(f) CYBERSECURITY REPORTING.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The program’s network ad-
20 ministrator receiving Federal funding pursuant to
21 subsection (a) shall report to the Assistant Sec-
22 retary, in a manner that protects personal privacy,
23 consistent with applicable Federal and State privacy
24 laws—

1 “(A) any identified cybersecurity
2 vulnerabilities to the National Suicide Preven-
3 tion Lifeline; and

4 “(B) any identified cybersecurity incidents
5 or potential incidents to the National Suicide
6 Prevention Lifeline.

7 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—If an entity described in
8 paragraph (1) discovers a cybersecurity vulner-
9 ability, incident, or potential incident, such entity
10 shall immediately report that discovery to the Assist-
11 ant Secretary.

12 “(3) CLARIFICATION.—The cybersecurity inci-
13 dent reporting requirements under this subsection
14 shall supplement, and not supplant, cybersecurity in-
15 cident reporting requirements under other provisions
16 of applicable Federal law that are in effect on the
17 date of the enactment of the 9–8–8 Lifeline Cyberse-
18 curity Responsibility Act.”.

19 “(c) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date
20 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of
21 the United States shall—

22 (1) conduct and complete a study that evaluates
23 cybersecurity risks and vulnerabilities associated
24 with the 9–8–8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline;
25 and

1 (2) submit a report of the findings of such
2 study to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
3 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
4 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-
5 ate.

○