



**Testimony of Patrick Fucik on behalf T-Mobile Before the
Kansas House Health and Human Services Committee in Support of HB 2281
February 15, 2022**

Chairwoman Landwehr and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide brief testimony in support of HB 2281 which would establish 988 as the suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline in Kansas.

Congress passed the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act in 2020 which created the 988 3-digit phone number that will be just like 911, except for suicidal and mental health emergencies. The federal legislation authorized states to enact state 988 programs including the imposition of a fee on end-user communications devices to pay for the program. T-Mobile, and I believe all the wireless carriers, worked on the federal law and supported it.

While states have taken different approaches to implementing their 988 programs, I am happy to report that T-Mobile has worked very closely with both Chairwoman Landwehr and KDADs over the past two sessions to come up with legislation that all the stakeholders can agree too. I am not saying all the stakeholders will agree with the latest version of the language, but I can say that T-Mobile does support the imposition of the 20 cent per line fee that is included in the pending new bill draft.

T-Mobile supports HB 2281 and the creation of the Kansas suicide prevention program especially since the pandemic has continued for close to two years and the rate of suicides in our country continues to grow. This is a necessary piece of legislation at this time.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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