

Jenna Groth

Lawrence, KS

Testimony in Support of H.B. 2281

I used to take calls for crisis lines, including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Some of my clients did not want to interact with 911 staff but were in immediate crisis and needed on-ground support. They would have benefitted from having a team of mental health professionals show up on-site, instead of traditional 911 services. My decision to call 911 to intervene in suicides has led to a damaged relationship with NSPL callers, which could have been prevented if their local areas had the full crisis continuum of care options.

This would be better service for clients and friends who feel more escalated when meeting with traditional 911 services instead of mental health professionals. People in my personal life and clients would feel less much more comfortable seeking the help they need.

I am in favor of 988 and H.B 2281. I don't want to provide a lot of details, but suicide has affected me personally.