

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 17, 2025

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you craft the Fiscal Year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and related Agencies appropriations bill, the undersigned Members urge you to maintain funding for the 988 LGBTQ+ Youth Specialized Services within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Budget.

In 2022, SAMHSA launched the LGBTQ+ youth specialized services as a pilot program in coordination with the broader 988 lifeline. Since its launch, the line has received nearly 1.5 million contacts from LGBTQ+ youth through calls, texts, and online chats¹. In 2024 alone the LGBTQ+ service served over 600,000 crisis contacts, demonstrating both its necessity and impact².

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth aged 10 to 14, and LGBTQ+ young people are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their non-LGBTQ+ peers. It is estimated that one LGBTQ+ young person attempts suicide every 45 seconds³.

The LGBTQ+ Youth lifeline was designed to address this higher risk of suicide for this population. When an adolescent reaches out to the LGBTQ+ Youth lifeline, they can access specialized services from somebody who cares, who may have shared experience, understands where they are coming from, and is trained to address the unique situation LGBTQ+ youth may face⁴.

LGBTQ+ identifying youth can face distinct mental health issues rooted in rejection and social discrimination. In fact, of LGBTQ+ youth who reported they slept away from parents or were

¹ <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/06/18/nx-s1-5438405/lgbtq-988-lifeline-samhsa-hhs#:~:text=%22Just%20last%20year%20alone%2C%20approximately,get%20the%20help%20they%20need.%22>

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwyqlv7y31go>

³ <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/facts-about-lgbtq-youth-suicide/>

⁴ <https://www.nami.org/nami-news/nami-reacts-to-elimination-of-lgbtq-youth-specialized-services-in-988/>

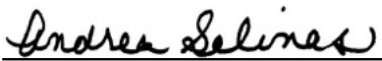
kicked out of the house, 40 percent were abandoned due to their identity and 28 percent of LGBTQ+ youth report experiencing homelessness or housing instability during their lives⁵.

Despite the need, a 2024 study demonstrated that 50 percent of LGBTQ+ youth who wanted mental health care in the previous year were unable to access it⁶. More than 80 percent say it is important that crisis services include a specific focus on LGBTQ+ youth⁷.

In the midst of a youth mental health crisis, we cannot afford to eliminate a critical, life-saving resource for LGBTQ+ youth, who face both higher risks and greater barriers to care. These young people deserve to speak with professionals who are trained and equipped to meet their unique needs.

Please maintain the lifesaving funding for the 988 LGBTQ+ youth specialized services so we can continue to serve LGBTQ+ young people across the country who are at an elevated risk of suicide and mental illness.

Sincerely,



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

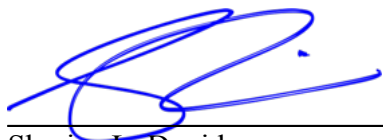


Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

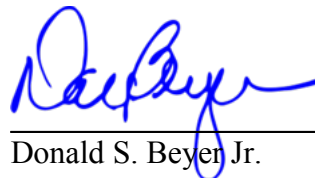
⁵ <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/homelessness-and-housing-instability-among-lgbtq-youth-feb-2022/>

⁶ <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2024/>

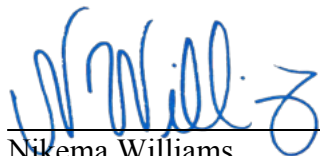
⁷ <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2021/?section=FindingSupport>



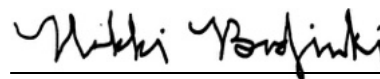
Sharice L. Davids
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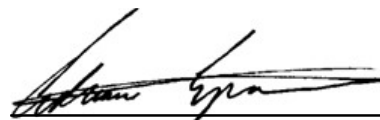
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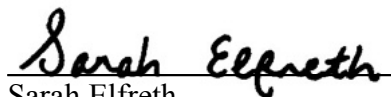
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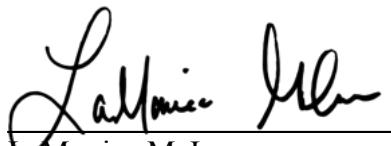
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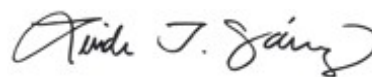
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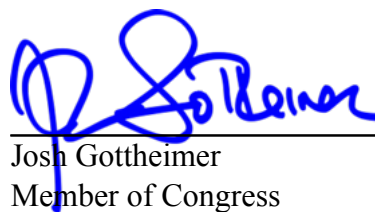
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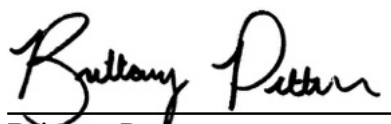
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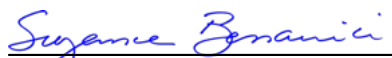
Maxine Dexter
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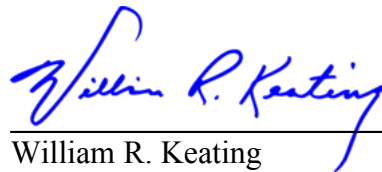
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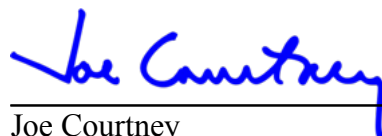
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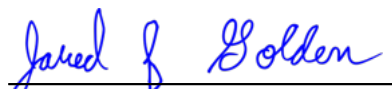
Julia Brownley
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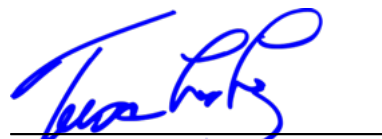
J. Luis Correa
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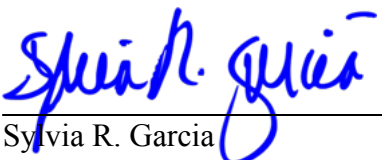
Teresa Leger Fernandez
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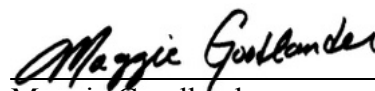
Jason Crow
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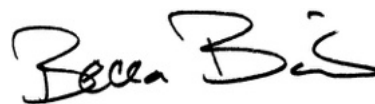
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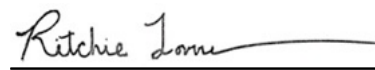
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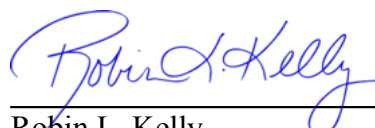
Mark Takano
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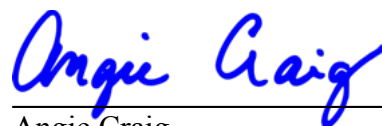
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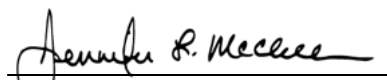
Robin L. Kelly
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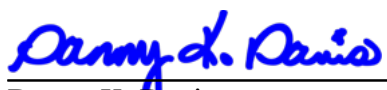
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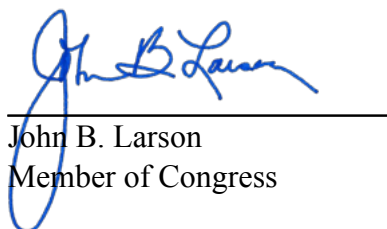
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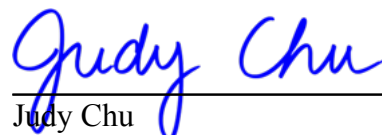
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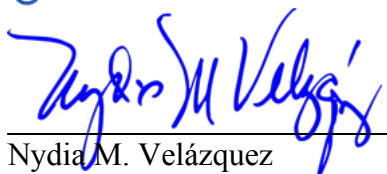
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Judy Chu
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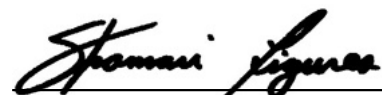
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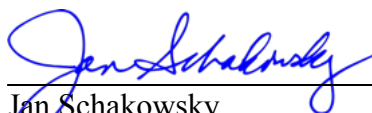
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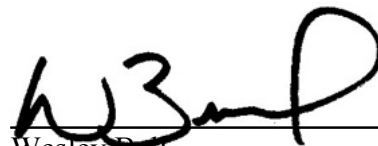
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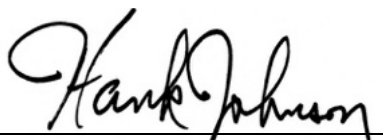
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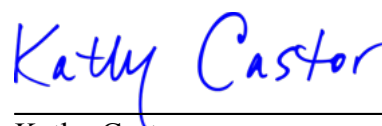
Laura Friedman
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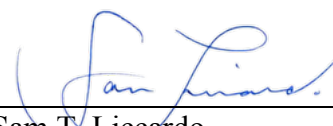
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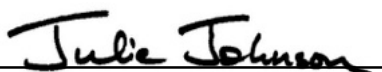
Kathy Castor
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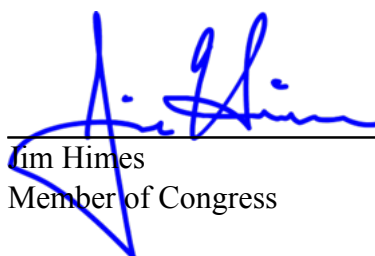
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Al Green
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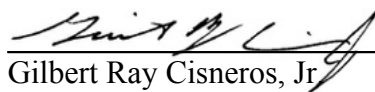
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Sean Casten
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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
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Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
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