



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 19, 2019

The Honorable Joe Manchin
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the implementation of the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2018, particularly as it relates to the needs of military veterans. I wholeheartedly agree that the brave men and women who have fought for our country and risked their lives to protect our freedom deserve the very best we can offer.

The Act requires the Federal Communications Commission to produce a report by August 14, 2019, recommending whether a particular N11 dialing code or simple, easy-to-remember, three-digit dialing code should be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system and, if so, the logistics and costs associated with designating such a dialing code (among other issues). In accordance with the statute, the Commission is working closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), as well as the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the North American Numbering Council (NANC) as we carefully examine this important issue. The VA and SAMHSA provided reports to the Commission in early February 2019, and the NANC submitted its report in May. In turn, the Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau sought input from interested stakeholders on these studies and is currently drafting the report.

Consistent with Congress' directive, the report will recommend whether a particular N11 dialing code or other covered dialing code should be used for a nationwide suicide prevention and mental health crisis system. Before implementing any such recommendation, we would seek public input through a notice and comment proceeding. Interested parties, including veterans and veterans' organizations, would be invited to fully participate in that proceeding.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Ajit V. Pai