



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 2, 2019

The Honorable Dave Loebsack
U.S. House of Representatives
1211 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Loebsack:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to adopt a new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Suicide is an epidemic in this country, with suicide rates reaching the highest levels seen since World War II. And suicide disproportionately affects at-risk populations like Veterans, LGBTQ youth, rural Americans, and others.

I believe that an easy-to-remember 3-digit number for emergency suicide prevention and mental health services would result in more people reaching out for assistance and would help to combat this crisis. That's why last week, I circulated a draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Notice) to my fellow FCC Commissioners to move forward with the necessary steps to establish 988 as a national 3-digit number to access suicide prevention and mental health services. Under my proposal, anyone calling 988 would be routed to the established National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK), which is already saving lives. We'll vote on this proposal at our December 12 Open Meeting.

As you note, the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act tasked the FCC, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Mental Health and Substance Abuse and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with examining and reporting on the technical feasibility of designating a simple, easy-to-remember 3-digit number for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system. Consistent with the recommendations made by FCC staff in August 2019, the draft Notice would start the process of designating 988 as the 3-digit dialing code for this purpose. This designation will help increase the effectiveness of suicide prevention efforts, ease access to crisis services, reduce the stigma surrounding suicide and mental health conditions, and ultimately save lives.

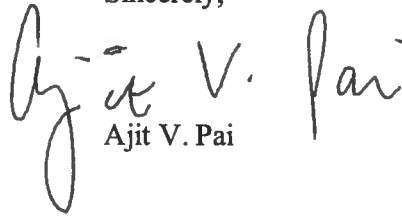
In particular, the draft Notice proposes that all telecommunications carriers and interconnected VoIP providers be required to implement 988 in their networks within 18 months. In addition, if adopted, the Notice will seek public input on several implementation issues, such as ubiquitous nationwide deployment of 988, call routing requirements, dialing 988 in certain geographic areas, the implementation timeframe, and the costs of implementing 988 (which you mention in your letter as well). For your convenience, I have appended to this letter a copy of the draft Notice, which discusses these issues in greater detail. Please be assured that we will take into consideration your views and those of other stakeholders.

Page 2—The Honorable Dave Loebsack

I look forward to working together as we move forward on a rulemaking to designate 988 as the three-digit dialing code for national suicide prevention. Working together, we can and we will save lives.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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December 2, 2019

The Honorable Doris Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to adopt a new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Suicide is an epidemic in this country, with suicide rates reaching the highest levels seen since World War II. And suicide disproportionately affects at-risk populations like Veterans, LGBTQ youth, rural Americans, and others.

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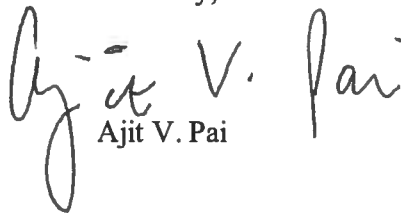
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
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December 2, 2019

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield
U.S. House of Representatives
2080 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to adopt a new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Suicide is an epidemic in this country, with suicide rates reaching the highest levels seen since World War II. And suicide disproportionately affects at-risk populations like Veterans, LGBTQ youth, rural Americans, and others.

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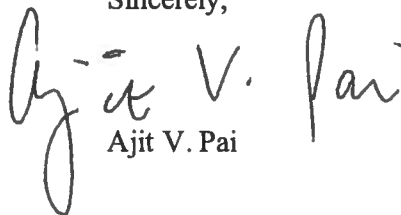
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Ajit V. Pai



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December 2, 2019

The Honorable Jerry McNerney
U.S. House of Representatives
2265 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to adopt a new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Suicide is an epidemic in this country, with suicide rates reaching the highest levels seen since World War II. And suicide disproportionately affects at-risk populations like Veterans, LGBTQ youth, rural Americans, and others.

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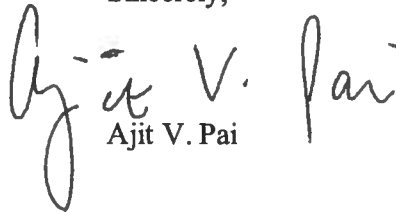
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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December 2, 2019

The Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy
U.S. House of Representatives
434 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kennedy:

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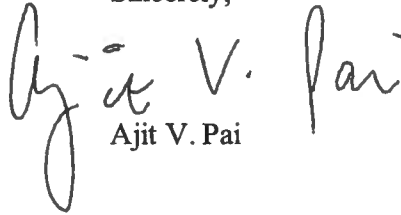
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Ajit V. Pai



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December 2, 2019

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

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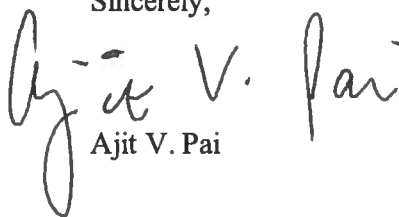
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December 2, 2019

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Welch:

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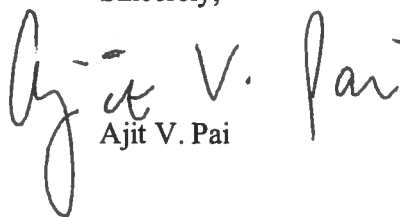
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December 2, 2019

The Honorable Tony Cárdenas
U.S. House of Representatives
2438 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cárdenas:

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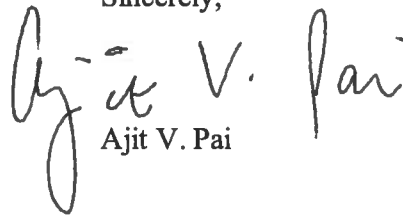
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December 2, 2019

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
2058 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

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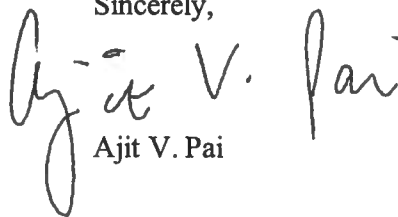
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Page 2—The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke

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December 2, 2019

The Honorable Robin Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
1239 Longworth House Office Building
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Dear Congresswoman Kelly:

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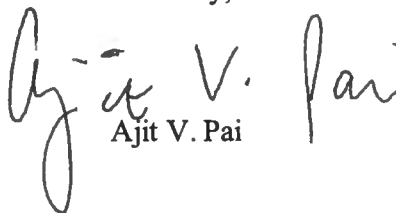
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December 2, 2019

The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster
U.S. House of Representatives
320 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kuster:

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I believe that an easy-to-remember 3-digit number for emergency suicide prevention and mental health services would result in more people reaching out for assistance and would help to combat this crisis. That's why last week, I circulated a draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Notice) to my fellow FCC Commissioners to move forward with the necessary steps to establish 988 as a national 3-digit number to access suicide prevention and mental health services. Under my proposal, anyone calling 988 would be routed to the established National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK), which is already saving lives. We'll vote on this proposal at our December 12 Open Meeting.

As you note, the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act tasked the FCC, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Mental Health and Substance Abuse and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with examining and reporting on the technical feasibility of designating a simple, easy-to-remember 3-digit number for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system. Consistent with the recommendations made by FCC staff in August 2019, the draft Notice would start the process of designating 988 as the 3-digit dialing code for this purpose. This designation will help increase the effectiveness of suicide prevention efforts, ease access to crisis services, reduce the stigma surrounding suicide and mental health conditions, and ultimately save lives.

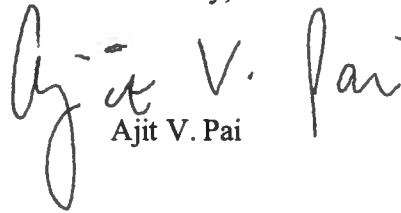
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Page 2—The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster

I look forward to working together as we move forward on a rulemaking to designate 988 as the three-digit dialing code for national suicide prevention. Working together, we can and we will save lives.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 2, 2019

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to adopt a new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Suicide is an epidemic in this country, with suicide rates reaching the highest levels seen since World War II. And suicide disproportionately affects at-risk populations like Veterans, LGBTQ youth, rural Americans, and others.

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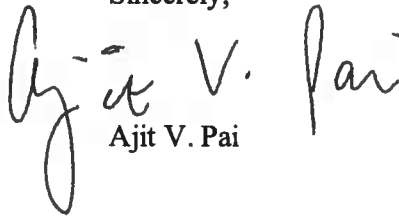
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Page 2—The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 2, 2019

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
U.S. House of Representatives
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rush:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to adopt a new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Suicide is an epidemic in this country, with suicide rates reaching the highest levels seen since World War II. And suicide disproportionately affects at-risk populations like Veterans, LGBTQ youth, rural Americans, and others.

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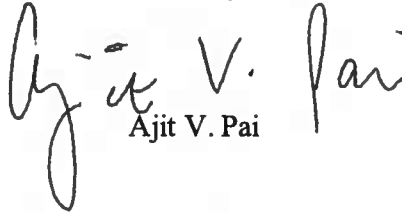
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Page 2—The Honorable Bobby L. Rush

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 2, 2019

The Honorable Darren Soto
U.S. House of Representatives
1429 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Soto:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to adopt a new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Suicide is an epidemic in this country, with suicide rates reaching the highest levels seen since World War II. And suicide disproportionately affects at-risk populations like Veterans, LGBTQ youth, rural Americans, and others.

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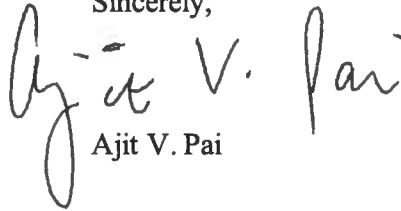
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Page 2—The Honorable Darren Soto

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Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 2, 2019

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Dingell:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to adopt a new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Suicide is an epidemic in this country, with suicide rates reaching the highest levels seen since World War II. And suicide disproportionately affects at-risk populations like Veterans, LGBTQ youth, rural Americans, and others.

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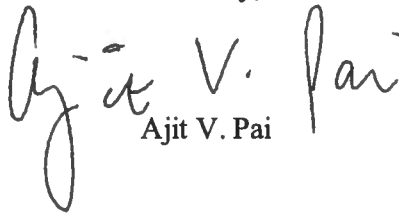
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Page 2—The Honorable Debbie Dingell

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 2, 2019

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to adopt a new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Suicide is an epidemic in this country, with suicide rates reaching the highest levels seen since World War II. And suicide disproportionately affects at-risk populations like Veterans, LGBTQ youth, rural Americans, and others.

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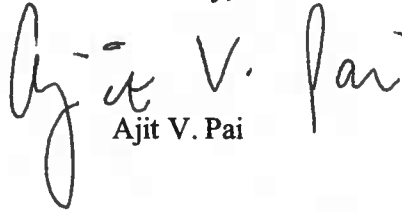
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Page 2—The Honorable Jan Schakowsky

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 2, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
U.S. House of Representatives
1519 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Rochester:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to adopt a new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Suicide is an epidemic in this country, with suicide rates reaching the highest levels seen since World War II. And suicide disproportionately affects at-risk populations like Veterans, LGBTQ youth, rural Americans, and others.

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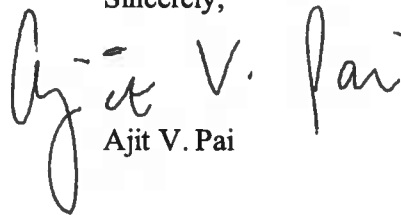
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Page 2—The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 2, 2019

The Honorable Mike Doyle
U.S. House of Representatives
306 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Doyle:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to adopt a new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Suicide is an epidemic in this country, with suicide rates reaching the highest levels seen since World War II. And suicide disproportionately affects at-risk populations like Veterans, LGBTQ youth, rural Americans, and others.

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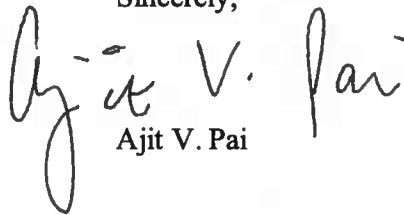
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Page 2—The Honorable Mike Doyle

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 2, 2019

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran
U.S. House of Representatives
126 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman O'Halleran:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to adopt a new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Suicide is an epidemic in this country, with suicide rates reaching the highest levels seen since World War II. And suicide disproportionately affects at-risk populations like Veterans, LGBTQ youth, rural Americans, and others.

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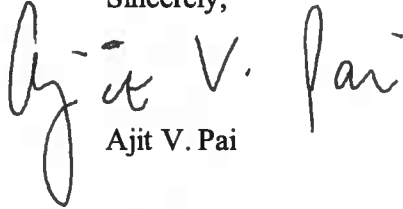
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Page 2—The Honorable Tom O'Halleran

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