

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *Implementation of the National Suicide Hotline Act of 2018*, WC Docket No. 18-336, Third Report and Order and Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (October 17, 2024).

On August 14, 2018, President Trump signed into law the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act, requiring that the FCC and SAMHSA study the feasibility of designating a 3-digit dialing code for access to suicide prevention and mental health services. The FCC under Chairman Pai's leadership quickly rolled up its sleeves and got to work, examining the potential impact such a code could have on suicide prevention. The following year, Chairman Pai proposed that the FCC move forward with the necessary steps to establish 988 as the national 3-digit code to access the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

This easy-to-remember number has become more than a lifeline for individuals in crisis—indeed, in just two short years since its launch on July 16, 2022, counselors have answered more than 10 million calls, texts, and chats from people seeking help with suicidal thoughts and mental health-related crises.

But our work has not stopped. Today's item continues to build on the foundation that was laid by ensuring that individuals in crisis are properly routed to a nearby helpline center so that they can receive the most relevant support and information available. This will undoubtedly save additional lives and have a lasting impact on the success of 988. So I want to thank Chairwoman Rosenworcel for her work and leadership on this issue. And I want to thank the staff of the Wireline Competition Bureau for their continued efforts to make 988 as successful as envisioned. The item has my support.