

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 423
(A-22)

Introduced by: American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry, American Psychiatric Association

Subject: Awareness Campaign for 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Referred to: Reference Committee D

1 Whereas, The U.S. is experiencing a profound crisis of mental health and well-being, one
2 compounded by the disruption, isolation, and loss experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic;
3 and
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5 Whereas, For too long many people who are experiencing a mental health crisis have called 9-
6 1-1 and received an inappropriate response from law enforcement or ended up boarding in
7 emergency rooms due to lack of beds and community services; and
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9 Whereas, This approach may place unnecessary burdens on people in crisis, their families, and
10 the health and justice systems, and deter people from seeking services for fear of police
11 intervention, being detained, and stigmatized; and
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13 Whereas, Beginning July 16, 2022, a new, easy to remember, three-digit code – 9-8-8 – will be
14 in effect to, if needed, dispatch mobile crisis teams immediately to anyone going through a
15 mental health crisis; and
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17 Whereas, The goal of 9-8-8 is to have 24/7 crisis call centers and move mental health crises
18 away from police involvement and toward behavioral health specialist involvement; therefore be
19 it
20

21 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association utilize their existing communications
22 channels to educate the physician community and the public on the new 9-8-8 program.
23 (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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