

Tri-Valley Cities

DANVILLE • DUBLIN • LIVERMORE • PLEASANTON • SAN RAMON

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2130
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 988 (Bauer-Kahan) The Miles Hall Lifeline Act
Letter of Support from the Tri-Valley Cities**

Dear Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan,

On behalf of the Tri-Valley Cities coalition which includes the Cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon, and the Town of Danville, we write to once again express our strong support for Assembly Bill 988, your measure which would implement the national 988 behavioral health emergency response system in California, so that all Californians experiencing a behavioral health crisis can access life-saving care.

As you know, our State and National behavioral health crisis response system is lacking and in disarray. Too often people suffering from mental illness go through a traumatizing and expensive revolving-door as they shuttle between jails, emergency rooms, and the street. A comprehensive crisis response system will increase access to appropriate care for those facing behavioral health crises.

In 2020, the federal government established "988" as the new three-digit number for behavioral health crisis hotlines. Switching to an easy-to-remember 988 instead of 911 for suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis services will ensure Americans in crisis have access to the help they need. AB 988 ensures callers are connected with around-the-clock intervention, including mobile crisis teams staffed by behavioral health professionals and trained peers instead of police officers.

As you know, there are efforts in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties on ways to improve social service crisis response for those suffering from mental health challenges and their families. A dedicated phone line for mental health emergencies is a critical factor to being successful in treating these emergencies. Along with the services provided by the hotline, access to the appropriate mental health resources during times of need is an enormous benefit to our respective local communities, the region, and the State.

We want to thank you for your steadfast commitment to addressing this critical policy topic and we are pleased to support Assembly Bill 988.

Sincerely,



Renee S. Morgan
Mayor of Danville



Melissa Hernandez
Mayor of Dublin



Bob Woerner
Mayor of Livermore



Karla Brown
Mayor of Pleasanton



Dave Hudson
Mayor of San Ramon



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