



**Statement from LGBT Tech on  
Proposed Elimination of 988 LGBTQ+ Crisis Services in the FY 2026 HHS Budget**

*Please attribute the following statement to LGBT Tech.*

Few innovations in modern technology have had the power to save LGBTQ+ lives as directly and impactfully as the 2022 launch of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. These three digits have acted as a critical bridge between those facing mental health crises, substance abuse, and suicidal ideation and the support that helps keep them alive. This is what makes recent reports of the Trump administration's proposal to eliminate the 988 LGBTQ+ Subnetwork so deeply alarming, infuriating, and unacceptable.

This is not simply a budget cut. This is a targeted strike against one of the few public services created to address the unique mental health risks faced by our community.

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And the need for this service is undeniable. LGBTQ+ youth are more than four times as likely to [attempt suicide](#) as their peers. Distressingly, 45% of LGBTQ+ high school students have [seriously considered](#) suicide. LGBT Tech has been [involved](#) in the development and launch of the 988 Lifeline since its unanimous and bipartisan inception at the FCC, urging federal agencies to ensure the platform serves all people and especially those most at risk. In less than three years, the LGBTQ+ Subnetwork has [responded](#) to over 1.2 million crisis contacts: a staggering number that reveals both the scope of this crisis and the lifesaving power of affirming, specialized care.

Cutting this service means silence where there was support. It means abandoned calls, unanswered messages, backups and delays in counseling, and young people left alone in the dark.

We must also be clear about what is at stake, and what is being prioritized. Early reports [suggest](#) that eliminating LGBTQ+ services within the 988 Lifeline would save an estimated \$50 million. For context, President Trump has [already spent](#) over \$30 million in taxpayer dollars on golf-related expenses since returning to office. Tens of millions allocated to motorcades, course fees, and luxury accommodations, while a program that has [answered](#) more than 1.2 million crisis calls from LGBTQ+ youth is slated for elimination.



2025 has featured a sustained federal campaign to devalue, dismantle, and erase LGBTQ+ lives from public infrastructure. The attempt to eliminate 988's LGBTQ+ services fit squarely within that pattern. It is not about cost efficiency. It is about erasure by attrition.

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**We ask: what is the cost of a child's life? What message does it send to them when the state erases the one number that answers them when they are most in need?**

We call on every elected official who claims to believe in dignity, safety, and health equity to immediately and unequivocally reject this proposal.

We call on our community, and the friends and allies that stand with us to call, write, and [make your voice heard](#) to your elected officials that you unequivocally reject this proposal.

In a moment where hope feels hard to come by, the very least we can do is protect the support systems that still offer it.

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***If the 988 LGBTQ+ Subnetwork is dismantled, know that you are not alone.***

- ***The Trevor Project:*** 24/7 support for LGBTQ+ youth. Call 1-866-488-7386, text "START" to 678-678, or chat live online at [thetrevorproject.org/get-help/](https://thetrevorproject.org/get-help/).
- ***LGBT National Help Center:*** LGBTQ+ peer support for all ages. Call 1-888-843-4564
- ***Trans Lifeline:*** 24/7 peer support phone service run by trans people for trans and questioning people. Call 1-877-565-8860.
- ***SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline:*** Connects LGBT elders and caretakers with friendly responders. Call 1-877-360-LGBT (5428).
- ***National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:*** Provides free and confidential emotional support. Call 1-800-273-8255.