



## **CONTinuity in Necessary Evaluative Crisis Treatment (CONNECT) Act**

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### **Background**

Studies have shown that follow-up services can be critical to people in crisis. Researchers analyzed data obtained from 550 callers followed by 41 crisis counselors from six National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) centers from a period of April 2009 to September 2011. The results showed that the majority of interviewed follow-up clients reported that the intervention stopped them from killing themselves (79.6%) and kept them safe (90.6%).

Unfortunately, few crisis centers have had the funding to consistently conduct follow-up services. As we launch 988, it is more vital than ever that we recognize the importance of follow-up services.

### **About the Legislation**

The CONNECT Act will help crisis centers connect with people in crisis to provide necessary follow-up services. The bill authorizes \$30 million to create a new grant program through SAMHSA to support these activities. Follow-up services include check-ins to assess wellbeing and level of risk, outreach to ensure engagement in services and supports, collaboration with family, caregivers, and natural social supports, and referrals based on the needed level of care. By investing in follow-up services, the CONNECT Act will highlight their pivotal role and work to ensure that people in crisis have the resources they need.