



Continuity in Necessary Evaluative Crisis Treatment (CONNECT) Act of 2024

***Congressman David Trone (D-MD), Congressman Jamie Raskin (D-MD), and
Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)***

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 dying by suicide (79.6%) and kept them safe (90.6%).

Unfortunately, few crisis centers have had the funding to conduct follow-up services consistently. As we continue to build awareness and utilization for the 9-8-8 suicide & crisis lifeline, it is more vital than ever that we recognize the importance of follow-up services.

About the Legislation

The CONNECT Act will help mental health support centers connect with people in crisis to provide necessary follow-up services. Inspired by successful efforts in Maryland to engage in follow-up services, SAMHSA is currently piloting a [three-year grant](#) that has made [awards](#) to 10 organizations across seven states and two territories. This bill authorizes \$30 million to fully fund and codify these programs across the country. Follow-up services include check-ins to assess well-being 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.

Endorsing Organizations in the 118th Congress

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors, National Association of Rural Mental Health, National Association of Social Workers, American Psychological Association Services, The School Social Work Association of America, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, The Kennedy Forum, American Association on Health and Disability, Lakeshore Foundation, RI International, American Occupational Therapy Association, Anxiety and Depression Association of America, American Psychiatric Association, Huntington's Disease

Society of America, National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, Inseparable.us, American Mental Health Counselors Association, American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work (AAPCSW), Psychotherapy Action Network (PsiAN), Trust for America's Health (TFAH), First Focus Campaign for Children