

MARYLAND STATE COMMISSION ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

**Henry J. Meiser**  
Commissioner



Writer's Direct Dial:  
(240)-925-0600

**TO:** Hon. Chair, Hon. Vice-Chair, and Members – House Health and Government Operations Committee

**RE:** In Support of House Bill 421 (“HB421”)

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Cullison, and Member of the Committee,

As Governor Moore’s Designee on the State Commission on Suicide Prevention representing Maryland’s young adult population (ages 18 – 26), I write to you in support of HB 421 – “Public Safety – 9-1-1 Trust Fund – 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hotline”, set for hearing 2/11/25.<sup>1</sup>

HB 421 removes statutory limitations preventing our State from taking the next steps in the development of the 9-8-8 Suicide Lifeline system. Integration of 9-8-8 into the existing 911 network is the next challenge in providing the most accessible life-saving intervention when Marylanders need it most.

This simple change will enable funds from the State 9-1-1 Trust to be allocated for the exclusive purpose of developing the integration of State 9-1-1 systems with the 9-8-8 Lifeline, allowing first responders and other emergency personnel to best address the critically important needs of those in crisis. For these reasons, I urge the Committee to produce a favorable report on HB 421.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry J. Meiser".

**Henry J. Meiser**

Commissioner, State Commission on Suicide Prevention  
Governor’s Designee Representing Maryland’s Young Adult Population

---

<sup>1</sup> Favorable/Unfavorable position is that of the individual commissioner in his/her official capacity, not the position of the State Commission as a whole, unless otherwise designated in written/oral testimony.