



**Testimony of Patrick Fucik on behalf T-Mobile Before the
Kansas House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee
in Support of HB 2281
March 10, 2022**

Good morning, Chairman Finch and members of the House Utilities Committee. My name is Patrick Fucik and I am the Director of State Government Affairs with T-Mobile. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of T-Mobile in support of HB 2281 which would establish 988 as the suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline in Kansas.

Congress passed the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act in 2020 which created the 988 3-digit phone number that will be just like 911, except for suicidal prevention. The federal legislation authorized states to enact state 988 programs including the imposition of a fee on end-user communications devices to pay for portions of the overall 988 program in Kansas. Members of T-Mobile's federal government affairs team worked with the Kansas Congressional delegation on the federal 988 legislation and supported its enactment.

While states have taken different approaches regarding legislation implementing their 988 programs, I am happy to report that T-Mobile has worked very closely with both Chairwoman Landwehr and KDADs over the past two sessions to come up with legislation that addresses our administrative issues and that we are able to support - including the 20-cent end user fee. That fee was initially 50-cents as originally introduced in 2021.

Having said that, I mentioned that other states have taken different approaches to funding their 988 programming and some have passed a surcharge and others have used state revenues to fund their 988 programs. Because many states currently have budget surpluses available, using those funds for the purpose of starting their 988 program and the additional calls related to the anticipated increase in call volume makes sense. They can always come back and amend that legislation to add a surcharge if necessary to provide a more permanent source of revenue. If the Kansas Legislature decides on imposing a 988 surcharge, we support that concept.

T-Mobile supports the concepts contained in HB 2281 and the creation of the Kansas suicide prevention program especially since the pandemic has continued for two years and the rate of suicides in our country continues to grow. This is a necessary piece of legislation at this time.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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