

## 2022 Legislative Priorities

### New 988 Crisis Line

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In July, a new national 988 hotline will be available for individuals experiencing a psychiatric emergency. The 988 line will connect people to trained crisis counselors who can provide de-escalation and mental health intervention services by phone and coordinate connections to additional services and help in the community.

It's critical that a continuum of crisis services is available to these callers in all communities, including rural areas and communities of color. This way, we can end the revolving door of ER visits, arrests, incarceration, and homelessness.

### Access to care

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Response to mental health and suicidal crises requires a robust continuum of care. We support:

- The governor's proposal to spend \$17.9 million to increase pay to mental health providers in state-funded facilities so people don't have to wait months to get mental health treatment and assistance.
- HB 677/SB 1310 addressing insurance protocols which require patients to try and "fail first" on medications on the plan's approved prescription list before obtaining a medication prescribed by the patient's healthcare provider. This bill would set up an expeditious appeals process, which is critical for individuals in a mental health crisis.

### Student mental health

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We support:

- Efforts to increase the numbers of social workers, counselors, and psychologists in schools.
- Efforts to modify the Better Education Plan funding formula so that more dollars are invested in student mental health and other supports (SB 371 by Campbell/HB1001 by Love; SB 2578 by Crowe/HB 1863 by Darby calls for one school counselor for every 250 students).