**Please email a copy of your letter to** [**tara@steinberginstitute.org**](mailto:tara@steinberginstitute.org) **and submit through the California Legislature Position Letter Portal (**[**https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)). PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR LETTER NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, July 2 AT NOON

[INSERT HEADER/LOGO OF ORGANIZATION]

[INSERT DATE]

The Honorable Richard Pan, Chair

Senate Committee on Health

California State Capitol, Room 2191

Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Bill Dodd, Chair

Senate Committee on Governmental Organization

California State Capitol, Room 584

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 988 (Bauer-Kahan) The Miles Hall Lifeline Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Chairs Pan and Dodd:

On behalf of [Organization Name], I write to express strong support of Assembly Bill 988, known as the Miles Hall Lifeline and Suicide Prevention Act, to implement the national 988 behavioral health emergency response system in California, so that all Californians experiencing a behavioral health crisis can access life-saving care.

Our current behavioral health crisis response system is broken. Too often people suffering from mental illness go through a traumatizing and expensive revolving-door as they shuttle between jails, emergency rooms, and the street. A comprehensive crisis response system will increase access to appropriate care for those facing behavioral health crises.

In 2020, the federal government established "988" as the new three-digit number for behavioral health crisis hotlines. Switching to an easy-to-remember 988 instead of 911 for suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis services will ensure Americans in crisis have access to the help they need. AB 988 ensures callers are connected with around-the-clock intervention, including mobile crisis teams staffed by behavioral health professionals and trained peers instead of police officers.

[Please include information about your organization and why you support AB 988.]

It’s time for a transformative approach to behavioral health crises in California. It is for these reasons that we strongly support AB 988.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]