

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ANNA M. GOMEZ**

Re: *Implementation of the National Suicide Hotline Act of 2018*, Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket No. 18-336 (Apr. 25, 2024).

My first-ever site visit as FCC Commissioner was to meet the amazing team at EveryMind in Rockville, Maryland. Thank you for hosting us, Ms. Mazur. I walked away that day with a fuller appreciation for the importance of making the 988 Lifeline available to the public and gratitude for the hundreds of volunteer centers and staff that provide support to callers across the country.

As the 988 Lifeline has become available, we have learned about ways to improve support for callers. Today, we take a step towards such an improvement. With this Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, we continue exploring the georouting solutions to connect a caller in crisis to a call center and resources in the place where they are. Doing everything we can to ensure that individuals experiencing a crisis can receive the support they need saves lives and is simply good policy. I look forward to seeing the record develop with solutions and ideas about how we can implement this important next step.

Thank you to the staff of the Wireline Competition Bureau for your valuable work on this item.