



February 17, 2023

Re: Support for HF-1566, 988 Telecom Fee

The Minnesota Association of Black Psychologists wishes to support HF-1566.

The past three years have presented prolonged stress to underserved and high-need families and children; resulting in escalating emotional and social problems.

The rates of suicide for Black youth have gone up by 70% since 1993 and continue to rise. Suicide rates are also increasing in all other communities and cultures.

Since the introduction of the 988-suicide helpline, requests for intervention have significantly increased; likely saving many lives. A small public service fee would allow this exceptional suicide intervention program to continue, and expand as needed for the increasing demand.

The Minnesota Association of Black Psychologists is a 501c3 non-profit association that was founded in 1987.

Sincerely,

Willie B. Garrett, MS, LP, CEAP, Ed.D.
President, ABPsi-MN