



**Meredith Craig, Director of Healthcare Policy  
Ohio Chamber of Commerce**

*Support of 988 Funding  
March 9, 2023*

Chairwoman Carruthers, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 33. My name is Meredith Craig, and I am the Director of Healthcare Policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

As you may know, the Ohio Chamber has served as the state's leading business advocate, and we represent over 8,000 companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness, and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans. As part of our mission, we seek to make Ohio the best place in the country for business to operate and grow.

We applaud Governor DeWine for his continued dedication and passion to tackling the mental health crisis in the state. The Ohio Chamber supports the \$46.5 million funding over the biennium for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline because it serves as an important resource for employers and employees. The 988 line is saving lives. It connects Ohioans in a mental health or addiction crisis with an appropriate behavioral health response. The suicide death of employees or a family member of an employee can have an immense impact on the workplace. Investing in mental health and safety is critical to building solid workplaces, a strong workforce, and strong communities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide support of 988 funding in HB 33. We look forward to working with you on tackling the mental health crisis that is impacting nearly every business.