



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

May 27, 2022

Brent Reynolds
President
Illinois APCO
2500 E. Lake Ave
Glenview, IL 60026

Shelley Dallas
President
NENA
316 S. Hennepin Ave
Dixon, IL 61021

Dear Brent and Shelley:

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated April 19, 2022. I would like to thank you and all the 9-1-1 professionals and first responders for their dedication to keeping their communities and the State of Illinois safe.

Pursuant to the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, the Federal Communication Commission's rules adopted July 16, 2020, all states are required to establish and implement sufficient infrastructure to support a statewide 988 suicide prevention and mental health crisis system by July 16, 2022. The 9-8-8 hotline will provide 24/7 phone or text support to anyone in need of suicide prevention services or experiencing a mental health crisis. Having a dedicated number for these emergencies will allow those in a mental health crisis to receive assistance from a trained crisis counselor who can connect the individual with the services they need, rather than redirecting law enforcement resources.

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget is projecting a \$57 million fund balance at the end of Fiscal Year 2022. Instead of creating an additional surcharge to fund the 9-8-8 hotline as many other states have done, PA 102-698 included a one-time transfer of \$5 million from the Statewide 9-1-1 Fund as seed funding for the newly created Statewide 9-8-8 Trust Fund. Due to the significant cash balance in the fund and projected expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023, we do not anticipate this transfer to affect the operation of the 9-1-1 program.

We do understand there are questions about how this transfer will impact current and future federal grants. The Illinois State Police has reached out to their federal partners regarding federal grants and are expecting to hear back soon. No matter the response, my office remains committed to ensuring quality funding levels for both the 9-1-1 and 9-8-8 funds, giving both programs the ability to deliver their invaluable services to those who need them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker".

Governor JB Pritzker

CC: Senator Harmon, Representative Welch, Comptroller Mendoza, Treasurer Frerichs