July 19, 2018

The Honorable Chris Stewart  
United States House of Representatives  
323 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Stewart:

Thank you for introducing H.R. 2345 - National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to study the feasibility of designating a simple dialing code to be used for national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline systems. Vista Outdoor supports this legislation and stands ready to work with your office to get the bill signed into law.

If passed, this legislation would make services, such as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline or Veterans Crisis Line, stronger and more accessible. Based on the success of the well-known 9-1-1 dialing system, the bill creates a process by which an easy-to-remember dialing number could be used for the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline systems. Such a change would greatly improve the status quo, as many leading mental health and suicide prevention organizations find the existing number to be cumbersome (1-800-275-TALK).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States. Many studies find that successful prevention efforts should focus on identifying and providing treatment for people with mental health conditions. The National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act is an important step in making mental health and crisis services more accessible to those in need.

Again, thank you for introducing this legislation. Please let us know if we can provide further assistance or support as the bill moves forward.

Sincerely,

Fred Ferguson  
VP, Government and Industry Relations  
Vista Outdoor