



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **WTA Supports FCC Action on Suicide Prevention**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 13, 2019)** – WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband supports the effort by the FCC to create an easy-to-use suicide hotline with the passage of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking this week. The following statement can be attributed to Derrick Owens, Senior Vice President of Government & Industry Affairs:

“Suicide touches far too many families in our country. WTA supports the FCC taking the step to designate 988 as the suicide hotline number. This action will save lives, and our member companies stand ready to implement this new tool.”

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*WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband is a national trade association that represents more than 340 small, rural telecommunications carriers providing voice, broadband and video-related services in the United States. WTA’s members serve some of the most rural and hard-to-serve communities in the country and are on the forefront of bringing 21st Century telecommunications services to rural America. To learn more about WTA, visit [www.w-t-a.org](http://www.w-t-a.org).*