

Dear Chairman Headland, Vice Chair Hagert, and the Finance and Taxation Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support SB 2149. I believe that it is imperative for our youth, seniors, and most vulnerable neighbors have a 24/7/365 phone line to call, text, or chat. The 988 suicide and crisis lifeline provides listening and support, links people to resources, and crisis intervention. FirstLink works with other agencies such as human service centers and can triage, screen, and deploy mobile crisis if in-person support is needed.

People call 911 for medical emergencies, which is funded by telephone user fees. People call 988 for behavioral health support, which should be funded by telephone user fees.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

*Edith Lade*

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