

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

I am writing to encourage you to support SB 2149, the implementation of a 988-user fee.

I served in the Vietnam War and have seen first hand the emotional trials that Veterans face. I spent my life as a farmer and have witnessed isolation, depression, and suicide. It is imperative that we maintain the 988 suicide and crisis phone line and fund them to the needed capacity.

People call 911 for medical emergencies, they dial 988 for behavioral health emergencies. Both services are 24/7/365. Both services can screen, triage, and deploy extra in-person support. Both services should be funded the same, telephone user fee.

Yours truly,

*Daniel Lade*

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