

I am reaching out to encourage support for SB 2149

North Dakota needs a 24/7 Suicide and Crisis phone line. Seeing the numbers of suicide going up in North Dakota we need funding to make sure there is help available when it is needed. If First Link is willing to do this they should have the funding they need to carry this out.

Everyone knows to dial 911 for a medical emergency, it is slowly becoming known throughout North Dakota to dial 988 for behavioral health emergencies. 911 is funded with a telecommunications user fee, this should be no different for 988.

It is important for FirstLink to have a stable source of funding so they can be available 24 hours a day as 988 continues to be advertised and promoted and the call volume increases. SB 2149 would make this all possible.