

**SB 2149**

**In support**

From: Cheryl Biller, volunteer Moms Demand Action ND

Fargo, ND

I write in support of this bill. Suicide in ND, and in particular gun suicide, occurs at a rate significantly higher than many other states. We need to ensure that when someone reaches out for help, it is immediately available and accessible. You've seen the numbers - a 10 fold increase in the number of calls related to suicide at First Link's hotline in the 10 year period between 2011 and 2021, and another nearly 50% increase in the next single year. It is staggering and we cannot turn away.

ND has one of the highest rates of gun suicide in the country. It is so very important that we provide the kind of informed and capable staff answering these phone calls. It is as important that the technology that supports these calls and staff is up to date. For a tiny amount of money collected from all of us who use our phones, we can ensure that this incredibly important resource is available.

I urge a **DO PASS** recommendation on this bill.