

1/13/2022

Relating to the creation of the 988 crisis hotline program and the 988 crisis stabilization fund and the imposition of a 988 access fee.

Dear Chairman Senator Lee and Members of the Human Services Committee.

On behalf of FirstLink, I would like to thank you for your continued unwavering support and commitment to serving people in crisis, including individuals in our state who will contact the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline such as our veterans (988 Lifeline). My name is Christopher J Deery, I humbly ask for your support of SB 2149.

This bill is important for our servicemembers as 22 veterans a day are lost to suicide. As the Veteran Service Officer, we have lost many close to us and having another outlet like 988 would assist those in need. We need to continue to help our veterans as they have supported us in times of great need.

Thank you again for your commitment to serving individuals experiencing a mental health emergency.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Christopher J Deery

VSO

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