

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 (988 Lifeline). My name is Jillian Gould. I humbly ask for your support of SB 2149.

I work as the Behavioral Health Coordinator at Family Healthcare in Fargo and work with those in mental health crisis daily. Unfortunately, access to appropriate behavioral health services can be very limited throughout our state. Having access to a 24/7 988 suicide and crisis phone number is extremely important as it can serve as a very important link to behavioral health services. In the last week alone, I have referred 6 of our behavioral health patients to 988 and feel that the need to refer additional patients will simply grow given the current situations our patients are facing.

Thank you again for your commitment to serving individuals experiencing a mental health emergency. Please feel free to contact me at the email address below if you have any questions or to discuss ensuring individuals in our great state of North Dakota have access to robust and well-resourced crisis intervention services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Jillian Gould  
Behavioral Health Coordinator  
Family Healthcare  
[jgould@famhealthcare.org](mailto:jgould@famhealthcare.org)