

January 14, 2023

Re: 988 crisis hotline program, 988 crisis stabilization fund, and the imposition of a 988-access fee.

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

I would like to thank you for your continued support and commitment to serving people in crisis, including individuals in our state who will contact the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (988 Lifeline). I ask for your support of SB 2149.

I work with public health and in that role have too many opportunities to direct people to 988. I'm thankful daily for this essential resource. Let's make it as strong as possible to serve all North Dakotans. We either all struggle or know someone who struggles with mental illness.

Thank you again for your commitment to serving individuals experiencing a mental health emergency and ensuring individuals in North Dakota have access to comprehensive and well-resourced crisis intervention services.

Best regards,

Karen Nitzkowski
4711 105th St N
Harwood, ND 58042
Cell: 701-371-9644
Email: knitzkowski@gmail.com