

Senate Human Services Committee

Judy Lee, Chair

Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

Senate Bill No. 2149 – 988 Crisis Hotline

January 17, 2023

Good morning, Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee. I am Rachel Sinness, Legal Director and attorney for the North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project (P&A).

P&A is an independent state agency. Its mission is to advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities. P&A strives to ensure that every individual with a disability is provided the same benefits of the programs and services as all other North Dakota citizens.

P&A is here to offer testimony in favor of Bill 2149. Our advocates and attorneys assist not only individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, but those with mental health disabilities. Bill 2149 undeniably provides much needed supports to our clients who are undergoing suicidal, mental health, and substance use crises. We support any ongoing efforts and funding to a service that is so necessary to those in North Dakota who most need it.

Thank you, and I am happy to stand for any questions.