

1/16/23

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

Dear Chairman Senator Lee and Members of the Humas 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 Samantha Cox. I humbly ask for your support of SB 2149.

Suicide prevention is very close to my heart because since I was 14 (I am 20 now) I have had at least 6 people commit suicide in my life. Being 14 years old and having someone very dear to your heart commit suicide impacts your world greatly, but continuing to have it happen over and over again really affects a persons life. That being said having the 24/7 988 suicide and crisis phone number available to call is very important to me. Having that number allows those having thoughts to have an opportunity to try to talk to someone. Without it there, many will wonder who they should call. Overall, suicide has touched my life greatly and having the 24/7 988 suicide and crisis number is extremely important to me.

Thank you again for your commitment to serving individuals experiencing a mental health emergency. Please feel free to contact me at samcox2002@gmail.com if you have any questions or to discuss ensuring individuals in our great state of North Dakota have access to robust and well-sourced crisis intervention services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Samantha Cox

Midnight Riders

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