

1/16/2023

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 Traci Bakken and I humbly ask for your support of SB 2149.

Suicide prevention is close to my family as we lost my brother-in-law to suicide 10 years ago. My husband, Grady began a single motorcycle remembrance ride 4 years ago and it has turned into so much more! We have created a fundraising event that is the highlight of our small town community every July. Through this event we are able to support First Link and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, but we could also use your help! Recent data is showing that the new 988 number is reaching more people and they are getting support faster. Even more help would be provided to this 24/7 988 suicide and crisis phone number by securing additional funding from the State of North Dakota!

Thank you again for your commitment to serving individuals experiencing a mental health emergency. Please feel free to contact me at the number and/or email 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,

Traci Bakken  
Fundraiser Coordinator  
Lignite Area Riders for Suicide Prevention and Awareness  
701-215-2659

#youmatter;