

Chairman Nelson and Members of the House Appropriation Committee – Human Resource Division,

I urge your support for HB 1012 to ensure continued and increased funding for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the 211 Information and Referral Helpline.

These services provide free, confidential, and lifesaving support to North Dakotans, with FirstLink reporting rising call, chat, and text volumes reflecting a growing need. From 2023 to 2024, calls to 988 in our region increased by 59%. Suicide is a leading cause of death in our state, with more than 130 lives lost in 2021—above the national average.

Sustained funding is essential to address urgent mental health crises, particularly in rural areas. Thank you for supporting this vital service.

Sincerely,

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