

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

As a **License Practical Nurse** with years of experience providing care to individuals facing mental health crises, I am writing to strongly urge your **support for HB 1012**. This bill is vital to securing continued and increased funding for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the 211 Information and Referral Helpline. Having worked closely with individuals in crisis, I have witnessed the growing demand for support and the lifesaving impact these helplines have on our community.

In my nursing practice, **I have observed firsthand how critical timely intervention is when someone is experiencing a mental health crisis**. It is imperative that North Dakota financially supports this free, confidential crisis phone line.

I urge you to support HB 1012 and ensure the funding necessary to sustain and expand these essential services. FirstLink needs the funding to have enough staff available to answer the phone lines and to be able to pay their employees professional wages. The people of North Dakota are counting on us to prioritize mental health and crisis intervention.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**SARA LADE**

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Licensed Practical Nurse, Advocate for Mental Health Support