

Subject: Support for HB 1012 – A Critical Step for Suicide Prevention

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

I am writing to express my strong **support for HB 1012** and urge you to vote in its favor. My name is Sandra, and I am the President of TEARS, an organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of despair and preventing future tragedies through education, advocacy, and the promotion of mental wellness.

Suicide remains a silent epidemic, touching countless lives and leaving communities grappling with loss. At TEARS, we believe that everyone has a role to play in suicide prevention. A key part of this effort is ensuring that individuals in crisis have access to immediate, 24/7/365 support.

FirstLink serves as a vital lifeline for individuals in need, providing support through calls, chats, and texts. However, for FirstLink to continue offering these lifesaving services effectively, it must have adequate funding to maintain sufficient staffing levels. **HB 1012 is essential to ensuring that no cry for help goes unanswered.**

Strength is not just about physical resilience—it's about rising in the face of adversity and standing together through life's storms. By supporting this bill, we can work together to build stronger, safer communities where no one feels alone in their darkest moments.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to suicide prevention. Together, we can create a world where hope replaces despair.

Sincerely,

Sandy Kovar

Sandy Kovar
President, TEARS