

House Appropriations Committee
Jan 17th, 2025 HB 1012
Testimony in Support

Dear Chair Vigesaa and the members of the House Appropriations Committee,

I urge a “Do Pass” on HB 1012

I am a suicide prevention advocate who has dedicated my life to reducing suicide in North Dakota. I do this work because I am a survivor who never wants anyone to go through the trauma I have, but more importantly because I want the people of our state to have hope.

Suicide is complex, it is multifactorial, and a measure of multiple risk and protective factors in a persons life, but consider the information below on public health:

- For every 1 death by suicide there are 135 people impacted ([Study](#))
- In the last 5 years, we’ve averaged approximately 150 suicides per year ([NDSO](#))
- While overlap likely occurs, we can presume more than 10,000 people in our state are impacted by suicide each year

We call this impact suicide contagion and it can result in further trauma and death by suicide. Every life that is saved through 988, in big and small ways, impacts over a hundred people. They took 14,000 calls from folks in crisis last year alone. And took over 90,000 calls total for general services, crisis, and just folks who needed someone to talk to. ([Firstlink Data](#))

They are the last line of defense before an unimaginable tragedy in someone’s life and I strongly recommend continuing to fund them to the utmost power within our state to do so. No dollar in this work goes unused and this investment pays out exponentially in the long term impacts on communities and health.

This is especially important in rural North Dakota, where there are less resources, less support, and smaller communities that feel the full weight of losing one of their own. For these reasons, I strongly urge a do pass.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,
Faye Seidler