

Subject: Strong Support for SB 2200 – Expanding the 988 Crisis Hotline Program

Dear Chairman Barta, Vice Chairman Boehm, and Members of the Industry and Business Committee,

My name is Abiola, and I am writing to express my strong support for SB 2200. As an immigrant who has made North Dakota my home, I have witnessed firsthand how vital the 988 crisis hotline program is to our community.

Immigrants like me often face unique challenges, including language barriers, cultural stigma surrounding mental health, and feelings of isolation. These challenges make access to free, confidential, and professional support absolutely essential. The 988 hotline has been a lifeline for many, offering critical assistance during moments of crisis.

The demand for 988 services continues to grow, underscoring the urgent need to expand this program. To meet this increasing demand and effectively support all North Dakotans, including vulnerable groups like immigrants, I urge you to allocate funding for:

1. Adding at least eight full-time employees to ensure timely and effective response.
2. Upgrading infrastructure to enhance the helpline's capacity to address complex needs.

Without this funding, we risk delays that could leave individuals without the support they need during their most challenging moments. Supporting SB 2200 is not just about improving a program—it is an investment in saving lives and fostering a stronger, more inclusive community.

Thank you for your dedication to the well-being of all North Dakotans. I appreciate your consideration of this important legislation and urge you to vote in favor of SB 2200.

Sincerely,
Abiola Adebayo