

Dear Members of the Industry and Business Committee,

My name is Brooke, and as a college student living in North Dakota, I'm writing to express my strong support for SB 2200. Mental health is an issue that deeply affects my generation, as many of us balance the demands of school, work, and planning for our futures while navigating challenges like stress, anxiety, and loneliness.

The 988-crisis hotline has been a lifeline for many North Dakotans, including students like me. Its free and confidential services provide a safe and accessible way to seek help, especially for young people who might not know where else to turn.

As the demand for 988 services continues to grow, it's clear that we need to do more to ensure the program can meet the needs of everyone effectively. Reliable, consistent funding is critical to expanding resources, keeping up with call volumes, and ensuring that people—especially vulnerable groups like students—can get the support they need when they need it most.

Without this support, we risk leaving individuals in crisis without help during their most difficult moments. By supporting SB 2200, you're investing in the well-being of our communities and helping to ensure a healthier, stronger future for all North Dakotans.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important legislation. I urge you to vote in favor of SB 2200 and help make lifesaving resources like the 988-crisis hotline accessible to everyone in our state.

Sincerely,  
Brooke Narum  
Mental Health Advocate