

Dear Members of the Industry and Business Committee,

I am Aaliyah Martinez, and I'm writing to express my strong support for SB 2200. As a college student and a loss survivor, I know firsthand the devastating impact of suicide. Losing someone I loved to suicide has made me deeply passionate about ensuring resources like the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline are available for anyone in crisis.

The 988 lifeline offers free, confidential support and is a lifeline for individuals, including young people like me and my peers. For those who may struggle to reach out through traditional means, text and chat options are critical. As demand for these services grows, we must expand the program by hiring more staff, supporting all communication options, and upgrading infrastructure to make sure every call, text, or chat is answered promptly.

Without this funding, we risk leaving vulnerable people without the help they need during their darkest moments. Supporting SB 2200 is a life-saving step toward ensuring no North Dakotan has to face a crisis alone.

Thank you for considering this important legislation. Please vote in favor of SB 2200 to help save lives and support the mental health of our communities.

Sincerely,

*Aaliyah Martinez*

Aaliyah Martinez  
College Student and Loss Survivor