

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote **yes** on SB 2200.

As a business owner, a mother of four, and a grandmother of seven, I have seen firsthand the struggles many individuals and families face when dealing with mental health challenges and substance use issues. I have witnessed people in our community battling suicidal thoughts and, tragically, some who have lost that battle. These experiences are heartbreaking and underscore the critical need for accessible mental health support in our state.

Organizations like **FirstLink**, which answers the **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** play an essential role in providing timely and life-saving assistance to those in crisis. These services not only connect people with the help they desperately need but also strengthen the fabric of our communities by offering hope and resources in the most challenging times.

Supporting SB 2200 is an investment in the well-being of our state. By funding and expanding these vital services, we can ensure that no one has to face their darkest moments alone. **Mental health challenges and substance use struggles impact all of us—our families, our businesses, and our communities—and it is our shared responsibility to respond with compassion and action.**

I urge you to vote yes on SB 2200. Let us take this step together to support and save lives in North Dakota.

Sincerely,
Edith Lade

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