

Dear Members of the Industry and Business Committee,

My name is Krista Frenzel, and I am writing to you not just as a mental health advocate but as a **deeply concerned parent**. The rising rates of youth suicide weigh heavily on my heart, as I know they do for countless parents across North Dakota. Our children face immense pressures and challenges, and too often, they don't know where to turn for help.

**In North Dakota, suicide is the second leading cause of death among individuals aged 10 to 24. However, this is a preventable tragedy.**

[The Jason Foundation, Inc.](#)

Between 2004 and 2021, the suicide rate in this **age group increased by 46.2%**, rising from 11.9 to 17.5 per 100,000 population. Alarming, there was a 33% increase in suicide ideation and attempts among youth between 2018 and 2021 alone.

[NORC at the University of Chicago](#)

**The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline has already made a life-saving difference by providing free, confidential, and compassionate support to those in crisis.** But as the demand for these services grows, we must do more to ensure they remain accessible and equipped to handle every call, chat, and text—especially those from young people on the brink of despair.

**This is why I strongly support SB 2200.** By securing the necessary funding, we can guarantee that the 988 Suicide and Crisis Helpline operates 24/7 with sufficient resources to provide immediate, effective assistance to our most vulnerable youth. **Without this support, we risk leaving children and teenagers without a critical lifeline, and as a parent, that is simply unacceptable.**

Our children's lives are at stake. Supporting SB 2200 is not just a legislative action—it's a moral responsibility. **I urge you to vote in favor of this bill and ensure that every young person in our state has somewhere to turn when they feel there is no hope left.**

Thank you for your time and for considering this urgent matter. Together, we can protect the lives of our children and build a safer, healthier future for all families in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Krista Frenzel