

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

As a suicide loss survivor, and resident of rural North Dakota, I am writing to express my strong support for SB 2200, which seeks to ensure continued and increased funding for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Rural areas in our state face unique challenges, with suicide rates in these regions being consistently higher than in urban areas.

The 988 Lifeline provides free, confidential support to individuals in crisis, serving as a critical resource for veterans and rural residents who may feel isolated or lack access to mental health services. Ensuring sustained funding for this lifeline is essential to address the mental health needs of our communities effectively.

By supporting SB 2200, you are taking a vital step toward reducing suicide rates and providing necessary support to those who have served our country and reside in rural areas.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to the well-being of all North Dakotans.

Sincerely,

Monte Rodacker