

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

As a passionate and committed mental health advocate, I strongly urge your support for SB 2200 to ensure the continued and increased funding of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, a critical lifeline for those in crisis.

The reality is stark: people in our communities are dying by suicide, and without adequate funding for services like the 988 Lifeline, many may feel there is no one willing or able to help. This service has the potential to transform lives by providing a beacon of hope for those in need. By investing in the 988 Lifeline, we can empower individuals to seek help, foster a culture of support, and build stronger, more resilient communities. **Sustained funding is not just a necessity; it is essential for addressing mental health crises and preventing further tragedies—creating a safety net of support for all.**

I firmly believe that together, we can create a community that prioritizes mental health, encourages open conversations, and provides a refuge for those struggling.

By ensuring the 988 Lifeline remains available and adequately funded, we send a resounding message of hope and compassion: no one in crisis has to face their struggles alone, and help is always within reach.

I urge you to support SB 2200. Investing in this service is an investment in saving lives and strengthening our communities. Thank you for your consideration and for supporting this critical initiative.

Sincerely,
Danae Coleman

Mental Health Advocate