

01/19/2025



FROM THE DESK OF ADAM MARTIN FOUNDER AND CEO OF F5 PROJECT

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

As the Founder and CEO of F5, I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2200 (SB 2200). My name is Adam Martin, and this legislation is crucial for ensuring the safety and well-being of North Dakotans, especially those in crisis.

Many individuals transitioning from incarceration face significant challenges, including mental health struggles, stigma, and limited access to resources. These barriers can lead to feelings of hopelessness and despair, making access to crisis support systems like the 988 Suicide and Crisis Helpline essential. SB 2200 addresses this need by securing funding to maintain and expand this vital service, ensuring it remains accessible to everyone, including those reintegrating into our communities after serving time.

In North Dakota, approximately 1 in 6 adults has a felony conviction, highlighting the scale of the population impacted by these challenges. Additionally, individuals with criminal records face unemployment rates five times higher than the general population, exacerbating mental health struggles and increasing the risk of crises. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Helpline provides immediate support to individuals in distress, particularly in rural areas where access to mental health resources is limited.

For people with felony convictions, this lifeline can be a critical tool for navigating crises, connecting to resources, and building stability during their reentry journey. By investing in this helpline, we are investing in second chances and creating safer, healthier communities.

This legislation transcends politics; it is about ensuring that every North Dakotan, regardless of their past, has access to the support they need to move forward and thrive. I urge you to vote in favor of SB 2200 to help prevent unnecessary tragedies and support individuals on their path to rehabilitation and reintegration. Thank you for your consideration. I am available to provide additional information or discuss my support further.

Adam Martin, Founder and CEO of F5 Project

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Martin'.

