

Chairman Barta and committee members,

My name is Emma Quinn, and I am a constituent of district 46. I am writing in support of SB 2200. I am an individual that lives with a lifelong serious mental illness, and I have worked in the behavioral health field for the past 6 years.

988 is a valuable resource that both clients of behavioral health services as well as behavioral health professionals depend on. Funding to continue 988 services is something we must do as a state. Every North Dakotan deserves access to crisis behavioral health services.

Behavioral health challenges do not always show up Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm. In fact, they often occur after hours. 988 is a 24 hour crisis line that is one of the very few 24/7 behavioral health services in our state.

As a behavioral health professional, I am unable to serve clients 24/7 which means I need to make sure they have appropriate resources for when I am unable to help. 988 is a vital resource that I give out to clients for when they are struggling, and I am unavailable.

By providing a funding source for 988 we ensure that our state will not be without crisis services in North Dakota.

Thank you,

Emma Quinn