

Subject: Strong Support for SB 2200 – 988 crisis hotline

We are writing to express our strong support for SB 2200 and urge you to vote in its favor. **Our names are Karla and Ron Forde**, and we are the **founders of *Enough with the Stigma***. Our foundation was established in memory of our 26-year-old son, Connor, who tragically took his life in December 2022.

Our mission is to educate others about the harmful stigma surrounding mental health and **to encourage young adults to embrace open, honest conversations about their emotions and struggles**. We are committed to challenging the outdated notion that one must remain tough and silent in the face of adversity. Instead, we aim to empower individuals to seek help and know they are not alone.

Having experienced the devastating impact of suicide firsthand, we know how vital it is for individuals in crisis to have immediate access to support. The availability of a 24/7 crisis line, such as the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the 211 Information and Referral Helpline, is absolutely critical. These services provide hope and assistance to those who need it most, often serving as the difference between despair and recovery.

We urge you to support SB 2200 to ensure these lifesaving resources are properly funded and staffed to meet the needs of our communities. Together, we can work to break the stigma, save lives, and build a future where no one feels alone in their darkest moments.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,
Karla and Ron Forde
Founders, *Enough with the Stigma*