

**Senate Industry and Business Committee**  
**Jan 20th, 2025 HB 2200**  
**Testimony in Support**

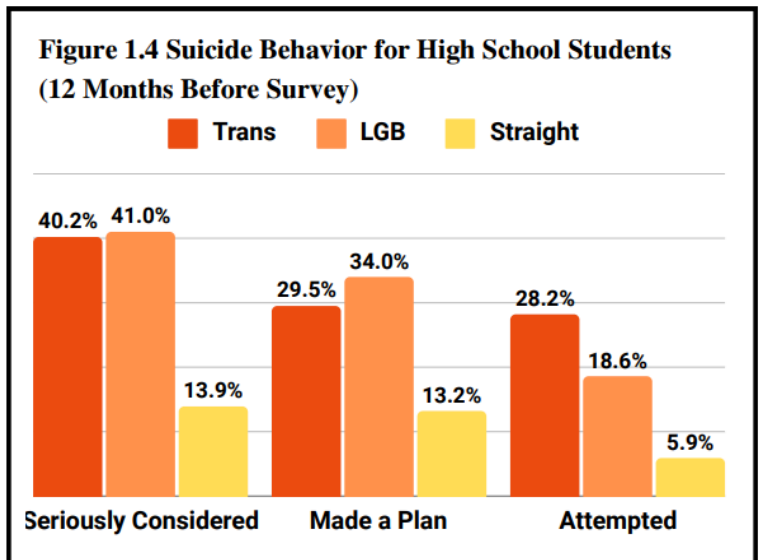
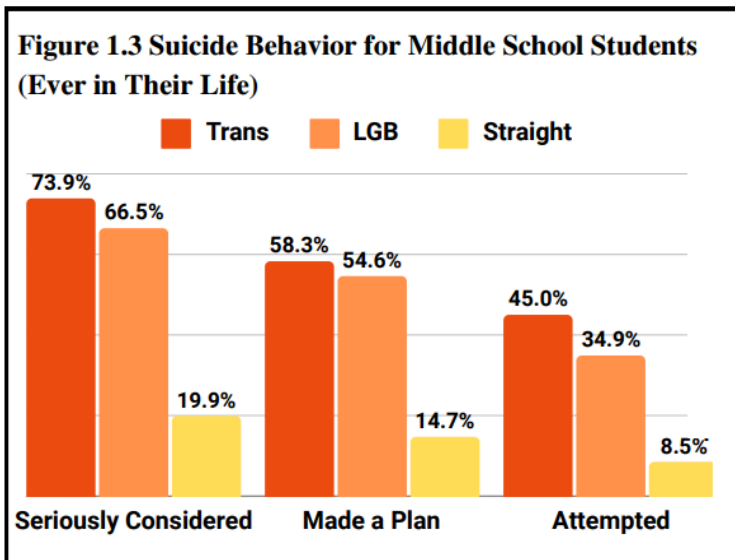
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Dear Chair Barta and the members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee,

I urge a “Do Pass” on HB 2200

Last week the North Dakota Health and Human Services [released their findings](#) from the Suicide Fatality Review Commission. They paint a clear picture of significant need across multiple sectors. Our state also provides an unparalleled look into suicide data across populations through the [North Dakota Suicide Overview Dashboard](#)

I am the author of the [State of the State Report for LGBTQ+ Youth](#), which is a comprehensive report that looks at improving suicide outcomes for youth across our state. I am going to share some data slides from it below that are related to suicidality for these kids.



Every day of my life is spent working to keep those numbers as low as possible and informing individuals about the problems we face. To put it bluntly, nearly a fifth of our kids are hopeless. Many deal with self harm, substance abuse, depression, and anxiety. They live in homes that aren't safe, have no access to food, and are doing their best to survive. Some of them are just thirteen or fourteen years old.

This bill is over my head. I don't know exactly what it does. I'm not here to tell you the best policies for governance. I am here for our kids. I am here to tell you there is an unmet need. With as scary as those numbers are above, only one in five actually reach out for help before attempting suicide. I'm a suicide survivor who was born and raised in this state and these numbers represent my youth. Whatever you can do to increase funding or support for suicide prevention, we need it. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,  
Faye Seidler