

Dear Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of Bill SB 2145. My name is Dallas Tufty, and I am a huge advocate for mental health. I am writing to emphasize the importance of this legislation in preserving the integrity of services such as the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the 211 Information and Referral Helpline.

Organizations like FirstLink play a crucial role in supporting individuals during times of crisis, providing compassionate care and helping develop life-saving plans. These services are indispensable to our community, and the professionals who deliver them deserve our full support.

SB 2145 ensures that these professionals are granted immunity as they carry out their important work. By adhering to best practices and standards set by organizations such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Vibrant Emotional Health, they maintain the highest level of care for those in need.

Passing this legislation demonstrates North Dakota's commitment to mental health and recognizes the value of protecting the people who dedicate their lives to helping others. Without this support, the sustainability of these vital resources could be at risk.

I encourage you to vote in favor of SB 2145 and take this important step toward supporting the mental health and safety of our community.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dallas Tufty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Dallas Tufty