

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Bill SB 2145. My name is Hailey Abrahamson, and I am an advocate in the mental health field. I am writing to highlight the importance of this bill in protecting life-saving services like the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the 211 Information and Referral Helpline.

FirstLink and similar programs provide an essential safety net for individuals in crisis. Each day, trained professionals answer calls, texts, and chats, offering emotional support, guidance, and practical help to those in need.

The immunity provided through SB 2145 is critical to ensuring that these professionals can continue their work without fear of legal repercussions. These services operate under evidence-based guidelines developed by respected organizations such as SAMHSA and Vibrant Emotional Health, ensuring the highest quality of care for all who reach out.

This legislation goes beyond protecting individual workers—it safeguards the stability and reliability of resources that countless people depend on. By supporting this bill, North Dakota affirms its commitment to mental health and to the well-being of its residents.

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of SB 2145 and to continue supporting the invaluable work of organizations like FirstLink.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional details.

Sincerely,

Hailey Abrahamson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hailey Abrahamson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "H".