

Dear Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Bill SB 2145. My name is Shannon LaHaise, and I am the Director for the Grand Forks Public Safety Answering Point/911 Center; a 911 professional dedicated to delivering critical emergency services to our community. I am writing to highlight the importance of this legislation in safeguarding essential services, including 911 Dispatch, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and the 211 Information and Referral Helpline.

SB 2145 is vital to protecting these professionals who provide these critical services. By granting immunity to 911, 988, and 211 staff, this legislation ensures that these teams can continue their essential work without the fear of unnecessary legal repercussions. These protections enable us to focus on what truly matters—saving lives and providing compassionate, reliable support to individuals in crisis.

This legislation is not only about protecting the individuals who answer these calls but also about maintaining the stability and accessibility of these life-saving services for the countless people who depend on them. Supporting SB 2145 sends a clear message that North Dakota is committed to prioritizing mental health, public safety, and the well-being of its residents.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of SB 2145 to help secure the future of these indispensable services and to ensure that the professionals who dedicate their careers to saving lives are supported and protected.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to addressing this critical issue. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Shannon LaHaise

Shannon LaHaise

Grand Forks PSAP, Director