

Dear Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Bill SB 2145. My name is Ashley Ladbury Hrichena, and I am a community member and mental health advocate. 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.

These lines provide an essential safety net for individuals in crisis. Each day, trained professionals answer calls, texts, and chats to offer emotional support and connection to services that people in crisis 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.

I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of SB 2145 to help ensure that organizations like FirstLink can continue their mission of saving lives and providing invaluable support to our communities. By supporting this bill, North Dakota affirms its commitment to mental health and to the well-being of its residents

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

Sincerely,

Ashley Ladbury Hrichena

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Ladbury Hrichena". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.