

Catherine Benton
SB 2145
January 13, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Bill SB 2145.

I am writing to emphasize the critical importance of this legislation in supporting essential services like the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the 211 Information and Referral Helpline.

Programs like FirstLink are vital to our community, offering a lifeline to individuals during moments of crisis. By answering calls, texts, and chats, trained professionals provide life-saving support and guidance to those in need. These services ensure that individuals facing crises are not alone and receive the immediate assistance they require.

The passage of SB 2145 is crucial to protect the professionals who perform this essential work. By granting them immunity, we ensure they can continue serving the community without unnecessary legal concerns. Their efforts are guided by evidence-based practices and adhere to the rigorous standards established in the Network Agreement developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Vibrant Emotional Health.

This bill not only safeguards the individuals who provide these services but also reinforces the trust and dependability of resources that so many rely on. By passing this legislation, the state demonstrates its commitment to prioritizing mental health and the well-being of its residents.

I strongly urge you to support SB 2145 and help ensure that organizations like FirstLink can continue their critical mission. Your vote in favor of this bill is a vote to secure the future of these indispensable services and the well-being of the individuals who rely on them.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important issue. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Your consideration is very much appreciated

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