

Senator Lee and Committee Members,

My name is Theresa Deckert and I am from Devils Lake. I serve on the board of our county's Suicide Prevention Coalition, lead a Suicide Loss support group and co-chair the Lake Region Out of the Darkness Walk. Our small community of Devils Lake and surrounding areas has raised over \$70,000 for suicide prevention and awareness in the last 5 years that we have been a walk site. Our community has been greatly impacted by suicide. The funds raised show this is an area that our community cares about.

I got involved with suicide prevention after losing my younger brother to suicide in 2014. My life was changed at that instant. Through working with other loss survivors, the common question is, "What can we do to insure other families do not have to go through such a tragedy?"

Our group has discussed the need for some sort of a commission that would review deaths and compile data about suicide. I was so encouraged when I found this bill. Thank you so much Senators Lee and Hogan for co-sponsoring it.

Suicide and suicide attempts are at an alarming high. We need to do all we can as a state to curtail this increasing crisis. Maybe through collecting and studying data we can have a better understanding which will help to save lives.

Please give this bill a "do pass" recommendation!

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