

**To:** Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee

**From:** Melissa Ames

**Date:** March 9, 2026

**Subject:** SUPPORT for S2348 Legislation Requiring Crisis Hotline Information on School ID Cards

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly urge your support for this legislation, which requires all middle and high schools under RIDE jurisdiction to include suicide prevention and substance abuse hotline information on student and staff identification cards.

This bill is a common-sense solution to a growing mental health crisis among our youth for several reasons:

- **Immediate Accessibility:** During a crisis, a person may be unable to search for a phone number. Having the **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** or a substance abuse hotline physically on an ID card ensures that help is always in their pocket.
- **Reducing Stigma:** By normalizing the presence of these numbers on every card, we send a clear message to students and staff that seeking help is not only okay—it is encouraged.
- **Support for Staff:** Including this information on staff IDs recognizes that educators and custodial staff also face significant stress and are often the first responders to a student in distress. They need these resources just as much as the students they serve.
- **Low-Cost, High-Impact:** The bill allows for the use of stickers on existing cards, making it an extremely affordable mandate for school districts while providing a potentially life-saving service.

We cannot wait for another tragedy to act. This bill provides a tangible tool to support the well-being of our school communities. I respectfully ask for a **favorable recommendation** on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Melissa Ames