Date

Dear Representative (Representative’s Name)

Or

Dear Senator (Senator’s Name)

Please support HF501/SF776 to fund Minnesota’s 24/7/365 suicide prevention voice response program at $969,000 (17 cents per Minnesotan, per year).

**Accessible, timely counseling saves lives, protects families, is an efficient use of resources, is cost effective, and reduces burdens placed on other emergency systems.**

I understand budgets are about priorities but, as my representative, I ask that reducing the number of people at risk of suicide be a top priority. Without proper funding for these programs, the hardest hit will be the most vulnerable: those in crisis or who have serious mental illnesses.

Failing to pass the budget needed for the state's suicide prevention voice programs could lead to increases in suicides, more shattered families, and an increased burden on more costly services; e.g., emergency departments, law enforcement, residential placement, and hospitals.

I ask that you consider the value of saving lives, pass this important funding, and request that your colleagues follow your lead. Thank you for your consideration of this issue that affects so many lives in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your City