

May 23, 2024

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Chair  
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
Committee  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD  
Ranking Member  
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Committee  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and the millions of health care workers across the country who now have greater access to mental health care services and support for their mental health needs, thank you for your critical effort to reauthorize the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act (H.R. 7153/S. 3679) and ensure that the vital programs it established continue to be available to our health care workforce. As a result of this law that honors Dr. Lorna Breen's life and legacy, health care workers have better access to education and training on preventing stress and burnout before the need becomes dire.

**Because of the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, lives have been saved and livelihoods have been protected.** Access to mental and behavioral health support and treatment has improved and more employers are able to engage with their workforce on these issues, provide greater resources, and accelerate promising solutions. We have also been able to capitalize on this momentum to begin implementing overdue changes in licensing and credentialing processes that have unintentionally contributed to the stigma around seeking mental health care.

However, even despite this important progress, health care professionals still face greater and increasing rates of mental and behavioral health conditions, suicide, and burnout than other professions. We must continue working to ensure an environment where each and every health care professional always has access to the necessary mental health care services they need and deserve, without fear of loss of licensure, loss of income, or other meaningful career setbacks associated with the stigma of getting the help they need.

Once again, we deeply appreciate your continued commitment to the doctors, nurses, and all health care professionals who continue to serve our communities every day. When we take care of our health workforce, we ensure that patients have optimal care and support and that our health care systems can thrive. Thank you for standing up to protect those who care for all of us, and we stand ready to work with you to help secure swift reauthorization of this critical law.

Sincerely,

American College of Emergency Physicians  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of PAs  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians

American College of Radiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Dental Association  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Medical Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Organization for Nursing Leadership  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
American Urological Association  
AMGA  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)  
Caregiver Action Network  
Children's Hospital Association  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Federation of State Physician Health Programs  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
Intealth  
Johnson & Johnson  
Moral Injury of Healthcare  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Hispanic Health Foundation  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National League for Nursing  
National Minority Quality Forum  
PBI Education  
Renal Physicians Association  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Surgical Economics  
The Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas DC-MD-VA chapter  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
Thrive Global Foundation