

March 8, 2022

The Honorable Tim Kaine
U.S. Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Todd Young
U.S. Senate
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Wild
U.S. House of Representatives
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David McKinley
U.S. House of Representatives
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Kaine and Young and Representatives Wild and McKinley:

On behalf of the millions of health care workers across the country who will now have greater access to and support for mental health care, we sincerely thank you for championing H.R. 1667, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, and your steadfast leadership to ensure its passage. The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the longstanding issues faced by front line health care providers, and there has never been a more critical time to address their mental health needs. We deeply appreciate your commitment to the doctors, nurses, and all health care professionals who continue to brave the front lines every day. By passing this bipartisan and bicameral legislation, lives will be saved.

For decades, health care professionals have faced greater rates of mental and behavioral health conditions, suicide, and burnout than other professions, while fearing the stigma and potential career repercussions of seeking care. By taking action, you have fulfilled your promise to protect the wellbeing of the millions of frontline health care professionals and proven that you hear their voices, as well as those of the more than 70 health care organizations who endorsed and advocated for this legislation.

Because of the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, health care workers will have better access to education and training on preventing stress and burnout before the need becomes dire. In addition, there will be more access to mental and behavioral health support and treatment and importantly, more employers will be able to engage with their workforce on these issues, provide greater resources, and accelerate promising solutions. Like you, we aspire to fully realize these goals and ensure an environment where health care professionals are able to seek necessary care without fear of loss of licensure, loss of income, or other meaningful career setbacks associated with the stigma of getting the help they need and deserve.

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 once again for standing up to protect those who care for all of us.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Clinical Urologists
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Cardiology
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Radiology
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Surgeons
American Dental Association
American Foundation of Suicide Prevention
American Gastroenterological Association
American Hospital Association
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 of Anesthesiologists
AMGA
Association of American Medical Colleges
Collaborative for Healing and Renewal in Medicine (CHARM)
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation
Education Development Center
Emergency Nurses Association
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Influencing Healthcare, LLC
Medicine Forward
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Association of Spine Specialists
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Student Nurses' Association
Philippine Nurses Association of America
Philippine Nurses Association of Northern California (PNANC)
Physicians Advocacy Institute
Pink Coat, MD
Razorfish Health

Renal Physicians Association
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
The Ohio State University
The Ohio State University College of Medicine
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
Thrive Global Foundation
TIP Global Health
University of Chicago
University of Virginia Health System