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**Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation Hails Senate Passage of
Legislation Protecting Healthcare Workers' Mental Health**
Historic Legislation Passed Senate Unanimously

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. – The Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation today [praised](#) the passage of the *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act* (S. 610) in the U.S. Senate. Aimed to reduce the stigma of seeking mental health assistance among health care professionals, the historic bill is named after Dr. Lorna Breen, a New York City emergency room physician who tragically died by suicide after treating confirmed COVID-19 patients, contracting the virus herself, and returning to an overwhelming work environment while fighting to care for patients. The bill was passed unanimously.



“We are beyond thrilled to see Congress acknowledge and prioritize health care professionals’ mental health and well-being, said **Jennifer Breen Feist, co-founder of the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation.** “This legislation demonstrates a

momentous shift in how our nation is beginning to view mental and behavioral health as a holistic part of health care.”

Backed by more than [70 organizations](#), including the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, and the American College of Emergency Physicians, the comprehensive legislation is the first of its kind to allocate specific funds towards grants for training health profession students, residents, or health care professionals in evidence-informed strategies to reduce and prevent suicide, burnout, mental health conditions, and substance use disorders.

“Even before the pandemic, far too many health care workers suffered from work-related burnout and depression,” **said Senator Tim Kaine (D-Va.), lead sponsor on the bill.** “Unfortunately, these mental health challenges have only been exacerbated during COVID-19, putting the well-being of our healers at risk. I’m proud to see my bipartisan *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act*, legislation to equip our medical professionals with resources to cope with the challenges they face, pass the Senate today and get one step closer to becoming law.”

“For far too long, the stoic culture of self-sufficiency in the health care community has driven stigmatized health issues underground. We sincerely thank the tireless efforts of Senator Tim Kaine in shedding light on this alarming trend, and Senators Cassidy, Young, and Reed for their leadership of this cause,” **continued Feist.**

As the nation grapples with new COVID-19 variants, mental health trauma specialists have [expressed concerns](#) about post-traumatic stress that frontline medical care practitioners will face in in the next era of the pandemic.

“We encourage the House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee to hold a hearing and urgently pass this legislation and provide the much-needed assistance our health care community needs and deserves,” **concluded Feist.**

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The Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes’ Foundation’s mission is to reduce burnout of health care professionals and safeguard their well-being and job satisfaction. We envision a world where seeking mental health services is universally viewed as a sign of strength for health care professionals. For more information or to contact the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation, please visit <https://drlornabreen.org/>.