



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
December 9, 2021

**Media Contact:**

Adjoa Kyerematen  
Phone: (202) 558-0896  
Email: akyerematen@jpa.com

## **Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation Hails House Passage of Legislation Protecting Healthcare Workers' Mental Health**

*Historic Legislation Passed House, Headed to Senate for Final Approval*

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.** – The **Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation** today praised the passage of the *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act* (H.R.1667) introduced by Representatives Susan Wild (D-PA), Judy Chu (D-CA), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) and David McKinley (R-WV) in the U.S. House. The legislation is aimed to reduce and prevent suicide, burnout, and mental and behavioral health conditions among health care professionals. The bill was passed by 392-36 vote.

“As the country braces to handle the potential impact of a new contagious variant of COVID-19, now more than ever is time to pass critical legislation that will support the well-being of our workforce,” said **Corey Feist, co-founder of the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation**. “Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, health care workers have experienced PTSD and exceptionally high levels of burnout. We have a long road ahead to ensure that our health workforce has the protection it needs to thrive and survive this pandemic and beyond. However, this is a much-needed first step. I thank the leadership of Congresswoman Susan Wild and Congressman David McKinley for leading on this important crisis facing our nation.”

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. This bill will help expand access to mental and

behavioral health resources among those working on the frontlines of the pandemic while supporting training for health professionals to prevent suicide and burnout.

“I’m glad that we are finally nearing approval of the first legislation of this kind in honor of my sister who like many others have risked their lives on a daily basis,” said **Jennifer Breen Feist, co-founder of the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation**. “As a nation we need to support those on the front lines of COVID-19 and make sure they have access to resources they need to support their mental health and combat burnout.”

The full text of the bill is available [here](#).

The *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act* is supported by the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM), American Academy Of Emergency Medicine Resident and Student Association (AAEM/RSA), American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of PAs, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic (AACOM), American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), American Counseling Association, American Dance Therapy Association, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, American Hospital Association (AHA), American Medical Association, American Medical Student Association, American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), American Osteopathic Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Society of Anesthesiologists, Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY), Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare, Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness, Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Ballad Health, Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD), Columbia University Irving Medical Center, EMDR International Association, Envision Healthcare, Federation of State Medical Boards, Federation of State Physician Health Programs (FSPHP), Johnson & Johnson, Mental Health America, National Association of Social Workers, National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, National Board Certified Counselors, National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders, National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), Postpartum Support International, RI International, SMART Recovery, The International OCD Foundation, The Jed Foundation, UVA Health, and the Well Being Trust.

###

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/>.