July 31, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and the millions of dedicated physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, and health care professionals across the country who have benefited from the landmark Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act ("Lorna Breen Act" or "Act") and its funding, we respectfully ask that Congress provide no less than $45 million for the programs established under this important law for fiscal year (FY) 2027.

We are deeply grateful that Congress recently reaffirmed the value of these programs by reauthorizing the Lorna Breen Act through FY 2030 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-75), an achievement made possible in no small part due to your longstanding bipartisan leadership as co-sponsors of the legislation. While the law has been reauthorized, without accompanying funding, we stand to lose a critical year of opportunity that will limit our ability to reach more health care providers. As you continue developing the FY 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge you to ensure these programs are fully equipped with the resources needed to continue carrying out the mission of protecting and improving the health and well-being of health care workers.

Each year, Congress provides tens of billions of dollars for the critical purpose of developing our health care workforce. The Lorna Breen Act is an essential component in *retaining* those health care workers, particularly given projected workforce shortages. Lorna Breen Act programs represent a modest federal investment with a massive impact in improving the health and well-being of those who care for all of us. It is the first and only federal law dedicated to preventing suicide and reducing occupational burnout, mental health conditions, and stress for health care professionals.

Because of the Lorna Breen Act, lives have been saved and livelihoods have been protected. Through two grant programs, the law and its funding have supported more than 250,000 health care workers in 24 states through 44 evidence-informed initiatives to strengthen health care workers' mental health. Access to mental and behavioral health support and treatment has improved and more health care employers are able to engage with their health care professional workforce on these issues, provide greater resources, and accelerate promising solutions. These are tangible results: grantees report a 35 percent reduction in turnover, 37 percent reduction in burnout rates, and a 50 percent decrease in mental health conditions. With continued funding, newly reauthorized grants would prioritize projects that reduce health care workers' administrative burden, a key driver of burnout. With funding, these grants could reach even more health care workers, which is critically important given that burnout rates are nearing 50% of the workforce.

The Lorna Breen Act and its funding also established and supported the *Impact Wellbeing*™ initiative to guide and equip hospitals, clinics and other care facilities in building a thriving and sustainable workforce. The initiative has already provided over 35,000 healthcare leaders with training materials to help them address the specific operational factors driving their workforce's burnout. Continued

funding for these efforts would ensure these valuable training materials reach additional healthcare leaders and support the development of a community of practice to support the implementation of the recommended workplace practices.

Thanks to continued advocacy work, and consistent with action steps called for in the *Impact Wellbeing*™ Guide, state licensure boards, hospitals, and health systems have also started to implement long-overdue changes in licensing and credentialing processes that have unintentionally contributed to the stigma associated with seeking mental health care. As of January 26, 2026, 43 medical licensure boards, 8 dental licensure boards, 8 nursing licensure boards, and 11 pharmacy licensure boards have verified their licensing applications do not include intrusive mental health questions, and more than two thousand health care facilities have removed such questions from their credentialing applications. More than 2.64 million licensed health care workers and 438,000 credentialed health care workers have benefitted from these improvements – a significant accomplishment by any metric – but our work must continue so that we can guarantee the same educational, training, and practice environments for all the 11 million licensed health care workers throughout the country.

Once again, we respectfully request Congress to provide full funding of no less than $45 million for the programs enacted by the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act in FY 2027, and we stand ready to partner with you to continue this lifesaving work.

Sincerely,

American College of Emergency Physicians
Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation
AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges)
American Academy of Emergency Medicine
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Neurology
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
American College of Radiology
American College of Surgeons
American Nurses Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
AMGA
Association for Clinical Oncology
Caregiver Action Network
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Clinical Social Work Association

Crisis Text Line
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action
Emergency Nurses Association
FIGS
Johnson & Johnson
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Hispanic Health Foundation
National League for Nursing
National Register of Health Service Psychologists
PBI Education
REDC Consortium
Renal Physicians Association
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons