

December 11, 2020

The Honorable Max Rose
U.S. House of Representatives
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Anthony Brindisi
U.S. House of Representatives
329 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Denver Riggleman
U.S. House of Representatives
1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gil Cisneros
U.S. House of Representatives
431 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Morgan Griffith
U.S. House of Representatives
2202 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
U.S. House of Representatives
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Rose, McKinley, Brindisi, Riggleman, Cisneros, Griffith and Upton:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, our clinician partners – including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers – and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups, the American Hospital Association (AHA) writes to express support for H.R. 8094, the *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act*.

Front-line health care workers have been steadfast in leading the fight against this pandemic since the first COVID-19 cases were identified in January, and their efforts have been extraordinary. After nearly a year of working through the intensity of the pandemic, these dedicated workers are now facing another spike in hospitalizations.

Concerns are mounting about how the number of physicians, nurses and other health workers are coping with emotional and physical strain from treating COVID-19 patients.



The Honorable Max Rose
The Honorable David McKinley
The Honorable Anthony Brindisi
The Honorable Denver Riggleman
The Honorable Gil Cisneros
The Honorable Morgan Griffith
The Honorable Fred Upton
December 11, 2020
Page Two

We know – both from survey data and anecdotally from extensive discussions with our members – that clinicians are suffering. A study reported by the [National Academy of Medicine](#) shows that between 35% and 54% of clinicians report at least one symptom of burnout, more than double the amount of burnout found in other fields. The COVID-19 pandemic has made this situation worse. These workers need and deserve added support as they continue to care for severely ill patients.

Your bipartisan bill, the *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act*, aims to reduce and prevent suicide, burnout and behavioral health disorders among health care professionals. The legislation would, among other provisions, authorize grants to health care providers to establish programs that offer behavioral health services for front-line workers. In addition, the bill would require HHS to study and develop recommendations on strategies to address provider burnout and facilitate resiliency, and it would direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to launch a campaign encouraging health care workers to seek assistance when needed.

We thank you for your leadership on behalf of the nation's health care workforce, and we look forward to working with you to enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Thomas P. Nickels
Executive Vice President