

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

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). Now, as you begin developing and considering 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)  
Active Minds  
American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM)  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
American Art Therapy Association  
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work  
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
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 Cardiology  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Group Psychotherapy Association  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Group Association  
American Nurses Association

American Osteopathic Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Psychoanalytic Association  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
Anxiety and Depression Association of America  
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  
Employee Assistance Professionals Association  
FIGS  
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice  
Inseparable  
International OCD Foundation  
International Society of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses  
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses  
Johnson & Johnson  
Mental Health America  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Athletic Trainers' Association  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Hispanic Health Foundation  
National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)  
National League for Nursing  
National Register of Health Service Psychologists  
National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC)  
PBI Education  
Psychotherapy Action Network (PsiAN)  
REDC Consortium  
Renal Physicians Association  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons