



May 21, 2024

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

On behalf of the Healthcare Workforce Coalition, we are grateful to the committee for considering S. 3679, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization Act and to Senators Kaine and Young for their leadership on this important legislation. The reauthorization of the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act would be a triumph in preventing and reducing healthcare provider burnout and we urge the committee to pass this bill expeditiously.

By way of background, the Healthcare Workforce Coalition represents a diverse group of stakeholders from across the healthcare continuum whose purpose is to preserve and retain America's current healthcare workforce to address the nation's healthcare staffing crisis.

Since its enactment in 2022, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act has funded evidence-informed strategies to reduce and prevent suicide, burnout, mental health conditions, and substance use disorders. The reauthorization of this act would expand the grants to more hospitals and over 200,000 other types of healthcare settings, while also alleviating administrative burdens. With [nearly half \(46%\) of health workers reported often feeling burned out in 2022](#), up from 32% in 2018, our nation's providers are facing a burnout and mental health crisis, particularly due to repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Reauthorization of this legislation is pivotal to alleviating that burden.

The Healthcare Workforce Coalition strongly supports S. 3679, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization Act. This important legislation will provide mental health resources and critical support programs for healthcare providers. The Healthcare Workforce Coalition looks forward to working with lawmakers and stakeholders to get S. 3679 signed into

law. Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter to help support our nation's providers and address the nation's burnout and mental health crisis among healthcare heroes.

Sincerely,

Healthcare Workforce Coalition

Cc: Members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee