



EDPMA Urges Reauthorization of the *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act*

To reduce burnout and prevent suicide among healthcare professionals, the Emergency Department Practice Management Association (EDPMA) urges Congress to enact the *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization Act* (S.3679/H.R.7153), which provides a five-year reauthorization of grant programs to improve mental health among clinicians.

Emergency Clinicians Face Unique Challenges to Mental Health and Workplace Safety

Physicians are an at-risk profession for suicide, with female physicians at an even higher risk. The *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act* was tragically inspired by the suicide of Dr. Lorna Breen, an emergency physician who provided frontline care in New York during the first wave of the pandemic in 2020. According to her family, Dr. Breen was hesitant to seek help because she worried that doing so might jeopardize her medical license and affect her options for future employment. Unfortunately, this is a common concern for physicians, which prevents them from seeking help when they need it most.

To help reduce the stigma around seeking help, the bipartisan *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act* established grant programs and a national campaign to prevent suicide and burnout and improve mental health among clinicians. The legislation provided over \$100 million in funding for mental health care initiatives geared towards healthcare professionals nationwide. The legislation is authorized through the end of 2024, which means these programs will come to an end absent congressional action.

The bipartisan, bicameral *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization Act (S.3679/H.R.7153)* would ensure seamless continuation of grant programs from 2025 through 2029 and is broadly supported by the healthcare community. It is led by Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Todd Young (R-IN) and Representatives Jen Kiggans (R-VA-2), Susan Wild (D-PA-7), Buddy Carter (R-GA-1), and Debbie Dingell (D-MI-6). EDPMA urges Congress to enact this important legislation.

¹ See, e.g., Dutheil F, Aubert C, Pereira B, Dambrun M, Moustafa F, Mermillod M, Baker JS, Trousselard M, Lesage FX, Navel V. Suicide among physicians and health-care workers: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLoS One*. 2019 Dec 12;14(12):e0226361. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0226361. PMID: 31830138; PMCID: PMC6907772.

² "Caring for healthcare providers as they care for patients," Adrienne McGibbon, Virginia Public Media (March 17, 2023), available: <https://www.vpm.org/news/2023-03-17/health-care-workers-mental-health>.

About EDPMA

EDPMA is the nation's only professional trade association focused on the delivery of high-quality, cost-effective care in the emergency department. EDPMA's membership includes emergency medicine physician groups of all sizes, billing, coding, and other professional support organizations that assist healthcare clinicians in our nation's emergency departments. **Together, EDPMA members see or support 60% of all annual emergency department visits in the country.** For more info, please visit [EDPMA.org](https://www.edpma.org).

Contact

Cathey Wise
EDPMA Executive Director
cathey.wise@edpma.org

