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February 8, 2024

The Honorable Susan Wild  
House of Representatives  
1027 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Buddy Carter  
House of Representatives  
2432 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jen Kiggans  
House of Representatives  
1037 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell  
House of Representatives  
102 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Representatives Wild, Kiggans, Carter, and Dingell,

The Society of Hospital Medicine, representing the nation's hospitalists, strongly supports the reauthorization of the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act (H.R. 7153). This bipartisan legislation begins to address a rapidly expanding issue of burnout among healthcare professionals. It establishes grants that support training in strategies to reduce and prevent suicide, burnout, behavioral health conditions, and substance use disorders among healthcare professionals. Furthermore, this legislation provides funding for programs to educate and promote mental and behavioral health in the healthcare workforce.

Hospitalists are front-line clinicians in America's acute care hospitals and focus on the general medical care of hospitalized patients. Rates of burnout were high and rising prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Challenges like staffing shortages, exceedingly high patient volumes, and stigma surrounding mental health care and treatment further contribute to rising rates of burnout in the healthcare profession. The mental health and wellbeing of our healthcare workforce is in crisis and requires continued action. The signing of the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act into law in 2022 was an important first step – but we need to pass the reauthorization to ensure continued access to these vital mental health resources.

SHM supports the reauthorization of the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act because hospitalists and other healthcare workers deserve and require continued access to mental health support services. We are pleased to support this legislation and stand ready to support its passage.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris Rehm". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kris Rehm, MD, SFHM  
President, Society of Hospital Medicine



