



Maryland  
Hospital Association

September 17, 2021

The Honorable Andy Harris  
2334 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
1705 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
2206 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Trone  
1213 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Sarbanes  
2370 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
412 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Anthony G. Brown  
1323 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Maryland Congressional Representatives:

On this National Physician Suicide Awareness Day, the Maryland Hospital Association is reaching out to express support for the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act (H.R. 1677) on behalf of Maryland's 60 hospitals and health systems.

Hospital workers have been leading the fight against this pandemic since the first COVID-19 cases were identified over 560 days ago. These dedicated individuals are still on the front lines in a daily battle to save lives and have treated and released more than 47,000 Marylanders.

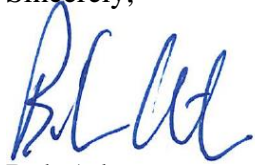
Concerns are mounting about how physicians, nurses, and other health workers are coping with emotional and physical strain from treating COVID-19 patients. We know, from survey data and anecdotally from our members, clinicians are suffering. A National Academy of Medicine study shows 35% to 54% of clinicians 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. Your constituents need and deserve added support as they continue to care for severely ill patients.

We ask you to support the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, a bipartisan measure that aims to reduce and prevent suicide, burnout, and behavioral health disorders among health care professionals. Representatives Raskin, Trone, Ruppersberger, and Sarbanes, we appreciate your sponsorship of the bill. The legislation would, along with other provisions, authorize grants to establish programs that offer behavioral health services for frontline workers.

The bill also would require the Department of Health and Human Services to study and form recommendations on strategies to address clinician 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 help when needed.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Passage of the bill will bolster Maryland's dedicated, talented health care workforce.

Sincerely,



Bob Atlas  
President & CEO