



AMERICA'S ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS

November 19, 2021

The Honorable Judy Chu
United States House of Representatives
2423 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David McKinley
United States House of Representatives
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
United States House of Representatives
115 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Wild
United States House of Representatives
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Reps. Chu, Krishnamoorthi, McKinley, and Wild:

On behalf of our more than 300 members, America's Essential Hospitals is pleased to support the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act (H.R. 1667) and look forward to working with you to advance it in the House.

America's Essential Hospitals is the leading champion for hospitals and health systems dedicated to providing high-quality care to all, regardless of social status or ability to pay. Essential hospitals form the fabric of the nation's health care safety net, and hospital staff fulfill the most important role in providing quality care to patients.

The health care workforce has been at the forefront of the COVID-19 crisis, fighting to serve patients despite staff shortages and overcrowded facilities. Unfortunately, the critical and relentless work of health care providers often comes at the expense of their personal wellbeing. We must ensure the nation has structures in place to care for these front-line workers.

This legislation would help essential hospitals support health care professionals by establishing grants and other support to strengthen mental and behavioral health resources. Specifically, this legislation would establish grants through the Department of Health and Human Services for suicide prevention, training on behavior health issues, and programs to improve provider well-being. Additionally, the bill calls for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to educate health care workers on identifying mental health issues and seeking treatment.

H.R. 1667 is a positive step forward in ensuring the health care workforce has access to the care they need and deserve, including mental and behavioral health services. Thank you for your leadership. We look forward to helping you advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Bruce Siegel, MD, MPH
President and CEO

essentialhospitals.org

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