

Current Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/929>

Status: House – 2/4/2026 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Summary: The **Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act**, named after Dr. Lorna Breen, an emergency physician who died by suicide during the COVID-19 pandemic, supports mental health, burnout prevention, peer support, and well-being programs for healthcare workers. Reauthorized through **FY 2030**, current advocacy efforts focus on securing continued federal funding to sustain these programs.

P&A Committee Insights:

- **Reduces stigma:** Encourages reform of licensing and credentialing questions that may deter clinicians from seeking mental health care.
- **Bipartisan support:** Supported by lawmakers from both parties, improving prospects for continued funding.
- **Supports peer programs:** Funds peer support for healthcare workers experiencing stress, burnout, and trauma.
- **Expands mental health access:** Provides funding for direct mental health services.
- **Broad eligibility:** Allows more organizations to qualify for grants.
- **Limited systemic reform:** Does not directly address staffing shortages, administrative burden, or unsafe working conditions.
- **Concerns about interventions:** Some funded wellness efforts may focus on resilience rather than workplace reform.
- **Licensing reform is voluntary:** Encourages, but does not require, changes to intrusive mental health questions.
- **Long-term outcomes unclear:** Evidence on reducing suicide, burnout, and turnover remains limited.
- **May not fit all specialties:** Burnout causes and needs vary across healthcare settings.

Position: Support

Status: On January 30, 2026, it passed as part of the larger appropriations package H.R. 7148, which cleared both the House and Senate. The reauthorization extends the funding period to five years, and Congress and the President have now reauthorized the Act through September 2030.

What's needed: Reauthorization only sets the authorization but doesn't guarantee money. Advocacy is needed to push Congress to fund the Lorna Breen Act programs through the appropriations process.

Priority: High

Subject: Nursing Workforce