Dear Chair Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and the millions of health care workers across the country who now have greater access to mental health care services and support for their mental health needs, thank you for your critical effort to reauthorize the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act (H.R. 7153/S. 3679) and ensure that the vital programs it established continue to be available to our health care workforce. As a result of this law that honors Dr. Lorna Breen’s life and legacy, health care workers have better access to education and training on preventing stress and burnout before the need becomes dire.

Because of the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, lives have been saved and livelihoods have been protected. Access to mental and behavioral health support and treatment has improved and more employers are able to engage with their workforce on these issues, provide greater resources, and accelerate promising solutions. We have also been able to capitalize on this momentum to begin implementing overdue changes in licensing and credentialing processes that have unintentionally contributed to the stigma around seeking mental health care.

However, even despite this important progress, health care professionals still face greater and increasing rates of mental and behavioral health conditions, suicide, and burnout than other professions. We must continue working to ensure an environment where each and every health care professional always has access to the necessary mental health care services they need and deserve, without fear of loss of licensure, loss of income, or other meaningful career setbacks associated with the stigma of getting the help they need.

Once again, we deeply appreciate your continued commitment to the doctors, nurses, and all health care professionals who continue to serve our communities every day. When we take care of our health workforce, we ensure that patients have optimal care and support and that our health care systems can thrive. Thank you for standing up to protect those who care for all of us, and we stand ready to work with you to help secure swift reauthorization of this critical law.

Sincerely,

American College of Emergency Physicians
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of PAs
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Cardiology
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians