

Wild's Bill to Provide Mental Health Resources to Health Care Heroes Passes House



REP. SUSAN WILD
(D) Pennsylvania

By Maddie McComb

WASHINGTON D.C. – Last night, Representative Susan Wild (PA-07) spoke on the floor shortly before her bill, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, passed the House. The bipartisan legislation received broad bipartisan support and heads back to the Senate for a final vote.

Rep. Wild's remarks as delivered: I rise today in support of my bill, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, which will finally provide resources and support to our health care heroes who face burnout and mental health crisis as a result of their experiences with COVID-19.

America owes an incredible debt of gratitude to these professionals who work keep us safe and healthy. Doctors die by suicide at twice the rate of the general population. The trauma of their experience, during COVID and before while treating patients is something we must address head on.

Dr. Lorna Breen was the emergency room director at New York Presbyterian Hospital, and was a hero who embodied the spirit of service in our time of national crisis. She died by suicide in April 2020 at the peak of the COVID crisis in New York after contracting Covid herself, quarantining, and returning to work. Her father said she was truly in the trenches of the frontline, she tried to do her job and it killed her, make sure she is praised as a hero, she was a casualty of this pandemic as much as anyone else who died. I am honored in her memory to lead this bill to prevent burnout among the health professionals answering the call of duty.

I'd like to thank my seven co-leads: Raja Krishnamoorthi, David McKinley, Judy Chu, Fred Upton, Haley Stevens, Morgan Griffith, and John Katko, and to note that the strong bipartisan support this bill enjoys is confirmation that Congress can still come together to tackle big problems.

And I'd like to thank Jennifer and Corey Feist, Dr. Breen's sister and brother-in-law who have championed this bill from the beginning to ensure that Lorna's legacy is codified here in the halls of Congress.

But most of all, I want to thank every last doctor, nurse, EMT, custodial staffer, food service worker, and especially our emergency room doctors who put themselves into harm's way to keep the rest of us safe. Our work to secure for you the support you need is far from over.

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