

Albany Medical College

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

**CUNY School of Medicine** 

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, the University at Buffalo

New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine

New York Medical College

NYU Long Island School of Medicine

NYU Robert I. Grossman School of Medicine

Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University

School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester Medical Center

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University

SUNY Upstate Medical University

Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine

Weill Cornell Medicine

Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell

August 27, 2020

The Honorable Max Rose United States House of Representatives 1429 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rose,

On behalf of the Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY), I would like to thank you for introducing H.R. 8094, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act of 2020, and offer our support to ensure passage of this critical legislation. This legislation would authorize a number of initiatives aimed at preventing suicide and burnout in healthcare professionals as well as addressing their mental health needs. We are honored that you have chosen to name this bill for Dr. Lorna Breen, a friend and colleague to so many in New York.

AMSNY is the consortium of the 17 medical schools of New York State, which have been working throughout the pandemic to address the healthcare needs of the citizens of New York, as well as supporting the medical students, physicians and other health professionals during this incredibly stressful time. Clinician well-being is important and difficult to attain during normal times, but during the unprecedented times of this pandemic, the need to ensure that there is support for clinicians now is critical.

While New York's medical schools have implemented and augmented a number of programs to help physicians and students, AMSNY greatly appreciates this legislation which would create programs to address stigma and bias against seeking mental health treatment, as well as reducing burnout and preventing suicide. We greatly appreciate the grants created through the bill which would provide resources to institutions to train health professionals in strategies to reduce their own stress and care for themselves. We emphasize the importance of having these grants available for academic medical institutions so that these strategies can flow down to the students, so the next generation of physicians will be raised in a culture of self-care to hopefully reduce these ill-effects in the long-term. AMSNY also supports the studies included in the bill which would help develop evidence based treatments and prevention strategies.

For the reasons included above, AMSNY supports the passage of H.R. 8094, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act of 2020, and we look forward to working with you as this legislation moves forward.

Thank you again for your strong support on these issues. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at <a href="mailto:jowiederhorn@amsny.org">jowiederhorn@amsny.org</a>.

Sincerely,

Jo aludechorn

Jo Wiederhorn President & CEO, AMSNY