



September 2, 2021

The Honorable Susan Wild
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
115 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David McKinley
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 1667, The Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act

Dear Representative Wild, Representative Krishnamoorthi, and Representative McKinley:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for championing H.R. 1667, the *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act*. This important legislation would help prevent provider burnout, suicide, and behavioral health conditions among health care providers, including oncology nurses.

As you know, cancer is the cause of nearly one out of every four deaths in the United States. Every day, oncology nurses see the suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer, and their families, face throughout the cancer care continuum. The physical, mental, and emotional tolls that oncology nurses bear, which have been exacerbated during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, while caring for patients with cancer is tremendous. As you may know, a [survey from December 2020](#) conducted by the American Nurses Association found that over 40% of nurses reported feelings of depression, 60% felt overwhelmed, and 72% were exhausted. Your legislation would support oncology nurses and other health professionals with suicide prevention training programs and by increasing education and awareness around mental health and suicide for health professionals.

ONS represents the interests of the 110,000 U.S. oncology nurses dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. ONS members are a diverse group of professionals who represent a variety of professional roles, practice settings, and subspecialty practice areas. Oncology nurses are leaders in the health care arena, committed to continuous learning and leading the transformation of cancer care by advocating for high-quality care for people with cancer.

Please know that ONS and its members very much appreciate your leadership in striving to improve mental health and prevent suicide among health professionals. We stand ready to work with you and your staff to support health professionals during the ongoing public health emergency and beyond. We would be happy to discuss ways in which ONS may be of assistance in this endeavor and would encourage you to contact Alec Stone, Director of Public Affairs, at astone@ons.org. We look forward to engaging in an ongoing dialogue to address issues of importance to our cancer patients and ways in which we can promote public health.

Sincerely,

The Oncology Nursing Society