

June 17, 2022

University of California Health
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ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTERS

UC Davis Health
UC Riverside Health
UC San Diego Health
UCI Health
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HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

Schools of Dentistry
Schools of Medicine
Schools of Nursing
Schools of Optometry
Schools of Pharmacy
Schools of Public Health
School of Veterinary Medicine

INSTITUTES

Global Health Institute

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
2083 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Aguilar
109 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Garcia
1535 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Valadao
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norma Torres
2227 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Josh Harder
209 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders and California Appropriators,

On behalf of University of California Health (UCH) -- our six academic health centers, twelve hospitals and twenty health professional schools -- thank you for the bipartisan support Congress showed our health care providers with the passage of the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act (P.L. 117-105) last year. Congress took an important step with this bill by authorizing additional funding at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to address the critical issues of burnout, mental health and wellbeing in the community of healthcare providers who have borne the heavy weight of caring for so many patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The fiscal year (FY) 2023 appropriations process is the first opportunity for Congress to fulfill the commitments made in the Dr. Lorna Breen Act by appropriating funds for this account. **We urge you to make a strong statement of support for frontline healthcare providers by supporting \$100 million in FY 2023 for HRSA's Preventing Burnout in the Health Workforce program.**

HRSA's Preventing Burnout in the Health Workforce program funds evidence-

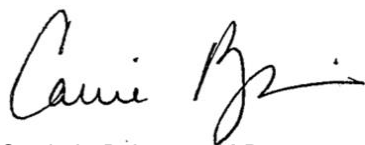
informed training for health professions students, residents, and other providers to prevent suicide, burnout, mental health disorders, and substance use disorders. Congressionally appropriated funding would also launch outreach and awareness-building campaigns to ensure health care providers take advantage of the new program.

The need for additional investment in provider mental health and wellbeing is clear. As part of the American Rescue Plan Act, more than \$100 million was awarded to reduce burnout and promote mental health among providers; however, the number of well-qualified applications for funding far exceeded the number of funded proposals. Additional financial support to further our understanding of provider burnout and the mental health challenges would serve to protect our health workforce for generations to come.

At UCH, healthcare providers (and providers-in-training) at every stage of their educational and professional careers have worked tirelessly to ensure that patients receive the care they need, even during the most challenging public health crisis of our generation. Across UCH's health centers, providers have benefited from efforts to minimize and mitigate burnout and improve the availability of peer support. For example, the UC San Diego School of Medicine developed the Healer Education Assessment and Referral (HEAR) Program, which seeks to prevent depression and suicide through voluntary, anonymous screening and referral, and system-wide grand rounds on burnout, depression, and suicide. The program has now been replicated at more than 60 medical campuses. UC Davis Health is also employing a Medical Staff Well-Being Committee to ensure their own trusted faculty are working to engage their provide community in accessing care.

Thank you for your work to address the COVID-19 pandemic in California, across the nation, and around the world. We now ask that you provide the funding necessary to ensure that health providers have the tools they need to address the impacts of the pandemic. If you have any questions about UC's support for the Dr. Lorna Breen Act or how UCH is responding to the pandemic and supporting our healthcare providers, please contact Kent Springfield at Kent.Springfield@ucdc.edu or 202-993-4810.

Sincerely,



Carrie L. Byington, M.D.
Executive Vice President
University of California Health



Patricia S. Maysent
Chief Executive Officer
UC San Diego Health



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President, UCLA Health
Chief Executive Officer, UCLA Hospital System
Associate Vice Chancellor, UCLA Health Sciences