

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 16, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress to enact S. 266, H.R. 929, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization Act of 2025, or similar legislation to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals

Resolution No. R-1224-25

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/gh



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 16, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3) (h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c) (2) ____) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)
12-16-25

RESOLUTION NO. R-1224-25

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
TO ENACT S. 266, H.R. 929, THE DR. LORNA BREEN
HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PROTECTION
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025, OR SIMILAR
LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND
WELL-BEING AMONG HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

WHEREAS, health care professionals are the backbone of the United States health care system, responsible for patient care and for every patient life saved; and

WHEREAS, these professionals routinely work in high-stress and high-stakes environments and face long working hours, overtime, understaffing challenges and a variety of strains and traumas that are difficult for most individuals to imagine; and

WHEREAS, such stressors can take a serious toll on the mental health and well-being of these workers; and

WHEREAS, this toll can take the form of behavioral health and substance use disorders, burnout, and even suicidal ideation; and

WHEREAS, such conditions pose substantial consequences not only for the professionals themselves, but also for their patients, since these conditions can negatively impact how professionals relate to their patients, can lead to understaffing due to professionals leaving the workforce, and can increase the rate of medical errors; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that many health care professionals, including doctors and nurses, face higher levels of burnout than other professions on average; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, many of these professionals do not obtain much-needed behavioral health services and support; and

WHEREAS, there are multiple reasons for this, which range from lack of awareness among professionals of the risk factors for and signs of behavioral health and substance use disorders and burnout, to unavailability of resources to cope with these conditions, to stigma and fear of professional consequences for seeking help; and

WHEREAS, support for the well-being of health care professionals is support for quality healthcare and an effective healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act (Public Law 117-105) (“2022 Act”) was passed by Congress and signed into law; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Act was designed to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Act was named after Dr. Lorna Breen, an emergency physician in New York who died by suicide in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Act, among other things:

- Directed the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) to disseminate information related to best practices for preventing suicide and improving mental health and resiliency among health care professionals;
- Directed the Secretary of HHS to establish an education and awareness initiative to encourage health care professionals to seek support and care for their mental health or substance use concerns and to reduce stigma associated with seeking help for these concerns; and
- Directed the Secretary of HHS to award grant funding to health care entities and medical professional associations to establish or enhance programs for improving

behavioral health and resiliency for health care professionals, including peer support programs, programs for improving awareness, and programs for providing direct behavioral health care and related follow-up services; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Act is reported to have had an impact, including the development nationwide of suicide prevention resources, evidence-based solutions to support the well-being of health care professionals, and training programs for health care providers to combat the causes of employee burnout; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Act appropriated funding for the program directives only for fiscal years 2022 through 2024; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Senate Bill 3679 and House Resolution 7153 were introduced for consideration during the 118th Congress and would have reauthorized the 2022 Act, but the legislation failed to pass; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, United States Senator Tim Kaine (D – Virginia) and a bipartisan coalition of members of Congress introduced and sponsored Senate Bill 266 (“S. 266”), the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization Act (hereinafter “2025 HCPPRA”), for consideration during the 119th Congress; and

WHEREAS, similarly, United States Representative Debbie Dingell (D – Michigan) and a bipartisan coalition of members of Congress introduced and sponsored House Resolution 929 (“H.R. 929”), the companion bill to S. 266; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 HCPPRA would, in summary:

- Reauthorize the 2022 Act;
- Make the initial report from the Secretary of HHS pertaining to the awareness campaign an annual requirement;

- Revise the duration of grant contracts under the program; and
- Extend the availability of grants to efforts to reduce administrative burdens on health care workers; and

WHEREAS, S. 266 and H.R. 929 are nearly identical bills, except that the appropriated funds authorized are for fiscal years 2025 through 2029 in S. 266, and for fiscal years 2026 through 2030 in H.R. 929; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 HCPPRA would continue to address and provide much-needed resources in support of the ongoing behavioral health needs of working health care professionals—something vital to retaining quality clinicians and ensuring quality patient care; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to support the 2025 HCPPRA, and the behavioral health and well-being of the medical professionals who dedicate their lives to caring for others,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the United States Congress to enact S. 266, H.R. 929, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization Act, or similar legislation to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to Senator Tim Kaine, Representative Debbie Dingell, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the issue identified in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2025 Federal Legislative Package to include this item and to include this item in the 2026 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Roberto J. Gonzalez. It was offered by Commissioner **Vicki L. Lopez**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	aye		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Sen. René García	aye	Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	aye
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Vicki L. Lopez	aye
Natalie Milian Orbis	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16th day of December, 2025. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: **Basia Pruna**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

KMM

Kevin M. Marker