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Idaho Board of Dentistry Named 2025 Wellbeing First Champion



The Idaho Board of Dentistry is proud to announce its recognition as a 2025 Wellbeing First Champion by the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation. The Board was the second state dental board in the nation to receive this honor, and Idaho is the first state to achieve this recognition across all health professions.

The Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation was established in honor of Dr. Lorna Breen, an emergency room physician in New York City who died by suicide in 2020. Her dedication to

her patients led her to work long hours under intense pressure during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This took a toll on her mental health, yet she feared losing her license or being ostracized by her colleagues if she asked for help. Her story sparked a movement to support the wellbeing of health care professionals as they dedicate themselves to caring for patients.

The foundation works to reduce burnout among health care professionals and promote their wellbeing by encouraging states and employers to remove invasive mental health questions from licensing and credentialing applications. These efforts help ensure that health care workers can seek mental health care without fear of losing their license or job. The Board of Dentistry has met this challenge by replacing questions regarding mental health with a general attestation of wellbeing.

This recognition reflects Idaho's commitment to supporting the wellbeing of its health care professionals. Thanks to the work of the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation, more than 2 million health care workers nationwide can access mental health support without fear of professional repercussions.

"Consumer protection and public safety are the mission of the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses and the Boards within it. Idaho's health professions' boards are proud to be recognized as leaders in the effort to provide accountability while also protecting the public health by encouraging licensees to take care of their own health in the process."

- Nicki Chopski, DOPL Health Professions Bureau Chief

