

May 28, 2020

The Joint Commission Statement on House Passage of H.R. 6800, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act

The Joint Commission appreciates the work of the Congress to continue to address the COVID-19 pandemic through the passage in the House of Representatives of H.R. 6800, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act. The Joint Commission applauds the following provisions, which will significantly help to improve the delivery of care during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- The HEROES Act requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish and maintain an online portal for hospitals and long-term care facilities to track and transmit data regarding crucial medical inventory and health care professional capacity related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Joint Commission supports this provision because with timely, comprehensive data sharing about resources, decisionmakers at many levels will be able to take informed action to address current or anticipated shortages.
- Includes funds for essential workforce employers to provide premium pay to their employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. These employees are working in our hospitals and other health care facilities to fight this pandemic. Premium pay demonstrates the nation's gratitude to these essential workers for their efforts and will help to keep families and communities healthy.
- A provision directs the National Institute of Mental Health to conduct or support research on the mental health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the effects on health care professionals. The Joint Commission supports such research