RE: Support for H.R.6720 – The Student Loan Forgiveness for Frontline Health Workers Act

Dear Representative Maloney:

On behalf of the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS), I write to thank you for sponsoring legislation to provide student loan forgiveness to health care workers who are on the front line in response to COVID-19. Representing over 7,000 heart rhythm care specialists, the Heart Rhythm Society strongly supports your proposal to establish a loan forgiveness program for health care workers who have made significant contributions to COVID-19 patient care.

Cardiac electrophysiologists and cardiac electrophysiology fellows are an important part of a health care organization’s ecosystem. With more than 40 percent of the cardiology encounters being arrhythmia related and 17 percent of COVID-19 patients manifesting arrhythmias, which are a common cause of fatal outcomes in this disease, the current situation puts electrophysiologists on the frontline of this health care crisis. Cardiac electrophysiologists and cardiac electrophysiology fellows have also stepped into roles in emergency departments and intensive care units to directly take care of COVID-19 patients given their experience in managing patients with critical care issues.

The Student Loan Forgiveness for Frontline Health Workers Act recognizes the critical work that health providers are doing to deliver care to the sickest patients, while putting their own safety at risk, during the current crisis. This bill will help alleviate the burden of student loan debt for frontline health care workers while helping to attract medical professionals to lend their expertise in the response to COVID-19.

Please know that HRS and its members very much appreciate your leadership in support of providers serving on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. For questions regarding this letter, please contact Laura Blum, Heart Rhythm Society’s Vice President for Provider and Patient Advocacy at lblum@hrsonline.org.

Sincerely,

Andrea M. Russo, MD
President