



This Week in Primary Care The Momentum Issue!

As readers of this newsletter are aware, primary care is in crisis. Patients lack access, clinicians are experiencing burnout, costs are increasing at an unsustainable rate. Our fee-for-services (FFS) system incentivizes more, but not better, care, driving up costs without improving quality.

But there is momentum building in Massachusetts, where Governor Healey recently promised to grow the primary care workforce by “shift(ing) healthcare resources to the front lines” and a group of primary care leaders, including PC4AA member Wayne Altman, have worked with a diverse set of stakeholders to **develop legislation** that, if enacted, will double investment in primary care for commercially insured patients.

PC4AA believes that the best way to guarantee that everyone in a given population is involved in a robust primary care relationship is for states and localities to figure out the best path for themselves. If Massachusetts passes this legislation, they will be doing just that—taking a big step towards improving the health of their communities through access to primary care.

Building on the experience of other states that have increased primary care spending, the new Massachusetts legislation represents a step toward an improved primary care system, calling for primary care to be recognized as a “common good;” shifting from FFS towards value-based prospective payments, which will allow practices to invest in team-based services; and eliminating cost-sharing for most patients in participating primary care practices.

Practices choosing to participate in this model would receive a monthly, per-patient payment enabling them to invest in primary care transformation. A Massachusetts Primary Care Investment Fund, which is believed to be novel amongst the states, would be created to collect and distribute money to finance the primary care subsidies in addition to supporting the scientific evaluation of this payment model.

An important consideration of the Primary Care Investment Fund is to

determine how to finance the Fund to eventually double primary care spending in the state without increasing overall medical spending or premiums. **An analysis** performed to evaluate the impact of the proposed legislation projects that increased payments for primary care would be offset by reduced hospital and emergency department costs within four years.

Read the details of the legislation, sign up for our next Teach-In/Learn-In, watch the debut of our new Local Playbook, and more below...

... but first, will the new administration's deportation policies require doctors and nurses to face off against our own federal government? Read **this opinion piece** from primary care doctor Danielle Ofri for some perspective on the dilemma.

The New York Times

Doctors and Nurses Should Get Ready for Mass Deportations

By **Danielle Ofri**

Dr. Ofri is a primary care doctor in New York.

It was hardly two weeks after the election when a doctor in our clinic received a letter from one of her patients, an undocumented immigrant who feared that Immigration and Customs Enforcement might detain her under a second Trump term.

The patient had diabetes and suffered from rotator cuff tendinitis, which makes reaching backward quite painful. "Is there any possibility you can write a letter," she asked, "stating that if they handcuff me, can they please handcuff me with my hands in front of me?" She was also panicked about her diabetes. "I am scared that they will not allow me to take any medications in the immigration camps."

[Read the Article](#)

Read the details of the proposed Massachusetts legislation here:

A Value-Based Primary Care Model That Doubles Primary Care Investment

[Russell S. Phillips](#), [Wayne Altman](#), [Cindy Friedman](#), [Zirui Song](#)

DECEMBER 16, 2024

In January 2023, legislation was filed in Massachusetts ([Bill S.750](#)) that aims to improve health and reduce health inequities by doubling primary care investment in the state. S.750 was referred to the Joint Committee on Healthcare Financing of the Senate and House of the Massachusetts Legislature. A public hearing was held in September 2023, at which 34 primary care physicians, health care leaders, patients, residents, and medical students testified in favor of the bill. No parties testified against this legislation. In March 2024, the bill was reported favorably by the committee and was sent to Senate Ways and Means Committee, the last stop prior to being considered by the full legislature.

[Read the Article](#)



Teach-In/Learn-In
Tuesday, February 11
8:30pm EDT



Alison Warfel
COO, Block Island
Health Services

How to sell the
story of your
community

Register Below!

*Join PC4AA for a conversation
about making primary care
accessible for all!*

[Register Here](#)

At our most recent Teach-In/Learn-In, we revealed the new PC4AA Local Playbook! If you missed it, you can watch here!



[Watch Video](#)

Become a Primary Care Champion!

We're excited to invite you to join us in making a meaningful difference in healthcare access for all Americans. By becoming a Primary Care Champion, you can support our vital work and help us create a healthier future for everyone.

Every contribution counts!
Together, we can drive impactful change in our

communities.

Thank you for considering becoming a Primary Care Champion!

- Do you have a primary care story? Good or bad, **we want to hear it!**
- Follow PC4AA on **Instagram**, **Facebook**, and **LinkedIn!**
- We are looking for volunteers to work with our social media team! **Click here** if you are interested.
- Please **support PC4AA** in the fight for primary care for people, not for profit!

[Donate Now!](#)

HOW TO BOOST PC4AA ON SOCIALS!



[Link here to our socials and more!](#)

Each week we showcase how access to primary care makes people healthier, saves money, and can be the cornerstone of a healthcare system that puts people over profit. Was this newsletter forwarded to you? Do you believe in access to primary care for all Americans? **Click here to join our mailing list!**

[Invite a Friend to Join the Movement!](#)

Share Your Primary Care Story With Us!

Have you had an unfortunate experience trying to access primary care? A great experience with a primary care provider? Whether you are a patient, caretaker, or health care professional, we want to hear your story! How has access to primary care affected you and your family?

[Tell Us Your Story](#)

We may even ask you to share your story with our supporters in one of our Teach-In/Learn-Ins! You can watch Kristen's story for inspiration.



Watch Recordings of All Our
Recent Teach-In/Learn-Ins

[PC4AA Videos](#)

The PC4AA Website is now available in Spanish!

[PC4AA Español](#)

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you believe in access to primary care for all Americans, please join our mailing list!

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