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## This Week in Primary Care The Full-Blown Crisis Issue

“Now we must respond to a full-blown crisis.”

These are the words of Rhode Island State Senators Pamela J. Lauria, V. Susan Sosnowski, and Alana M. DiMario—members of the R.I. Senate commission exploring the education and retention of primary care providers—in a recent [commentary](#) in the Boston Globe.

The immediate crisis they are addressing is the sudden [announcement](#) that Anchor Medical Associates, which 25,000 Rhode Islanders rely on for primary care, will be closing on June 30th. But the real crisis is much bigger. And it affects every state and community.

Primary care has been ignored and left to deteriorate within a system that prioritizes excessive spending on expensive treatments from highly paid specialists to cure diseases rather than investing in primary care practices that prevent disease and improve lives by keeping people healthy—for a fraction of the cost.

Senator Lauria has introduced bills that do what every state and community should do: encourage medical students to specialize in primary care and to stay in their states when they graduate.

There is much more that must be done to protect the health of everyone in this country and it starts not with legislators, governors, and presidents but with communities. That’s where you come in! With PC4AA’s guidance, you can start or join a local or state workgroup that will outline a plan to guarantee affordable, accessible primary care to everyone in your community. The legislators will follow you. That’s how grassroots movements work!

Start by joining our [Teach-In/Learn-In](#) tonight at 8:30 Eastern Time, when Dr. Don Weaver will discuss the National Health Service Corps, which supports more than 17,000 primary care medical, dental, and behavioral health providers through scholarships and loan repayment programs in exchange for their commitment to serve in high-need areas.

“Our current primary care crisis is the product of decades of inaction,” the

senators write. The inaction stops here and now with you motivating your elected officials to center primary care. First, your community. Then your state. Then primary care for all!

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## Become a Primary Care Champion!

Your support will help power the movement for primary care for all!

Donate Now

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# The Boston Globe

COMMENTARY

## Decades of inaction have wrought R.I.'s primary care crisis. We must address it right now, then nurse the state back to health.

State senators push for urgent reforms after Anchor Medical announced its imminent closure, leaving 25,000 patients scrambling amid a shortage of primary care providers

By **Pamela J. Lauria, Alana M. Dimario and V. Susan Sosnowski** Updated April 16, 2025, 6:00 a.m.

The announcement last week that [Anchor Medical Associates will close June 30](#) - leaving 25,000 Rhode Islanders in search of new primary care providers in a market where they are already difficult to secure - is a devastating symptom of the perilous condition of primary care in our state.

Primary care providers are the critical leaders of the complicated health care system, spending years promoting health, treating illnesses and coordinating specialty services.

Yet, as a state, we have not properly maintained the health of our primary care environment, nor have we responded to the signs of its disintegration.

Now we must respond to a full-blown crisis.

Read the Article

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**Teach-In/Learn-In**  
**Tuesday, April 29**  
**8:30pm EDT**



## **Dr. Don Weaver**

**A Brief History  
of the National  
Health Service  
Corps –**

**Lessons for  
Communities**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**[bit.ly/apr29zoom](https://bit.ly/apr29zoom)**

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

Register Now!

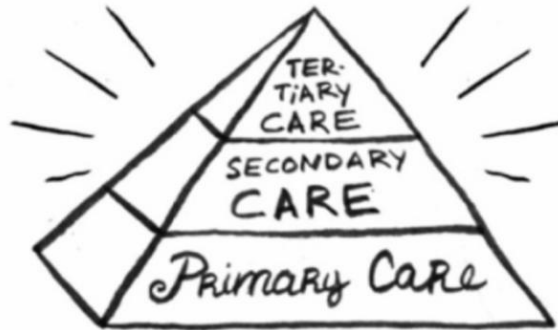
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**Here's a fun little cartoon to inspire you!**

**\* DR. BILL'S GLOBAL HEALTH DEFINITION:**

"The act of working to address health care inequities at home and around the world"

WHAT'S my prescription?  
Rx #1 Promote PRIMARY CARE!  
RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW



[See the Whole Cartoon](#)

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**Read the Rhode Island Primary Care  
Scholarship Program Bill**

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE MEDICAL PRIMARY CARE  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senators Lauria, Felag, Valverde, Euer, Ujifusa, DiMario, Lawson,  
Pearson, and Murray

Date Introduced: March 07, 2025

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. The general assembly hereby makes the following findings of fact:

- (1) Primary care healthcare in the State of Rhode Island is in crisis.
- (2) There currently exists a national and regional shortage of primary care healthcare providers.

[Read the Bill](#)

## We're hiring!

Primary Care for All Americans is searching for enthusiastic people for the following part-time roles. Depending on your qualifications, job descriptions may be combined or adjusted. Pay is \$20-\$30/hour, depending on experience. No experience is required, except where noted.

- The production associate will coordinate constituent relations, manage the mailing list, produce bi-weekly newsletters, manage the scheduling of meetings for multiple committees and state and local workgroups, update the website, and help out in other ways that come up. Five hours per week.
- The communications associate will develop and nurture relationships with external partners, oversee internal and external communications, including social media, and contribute to the newsletter and website.

Please express your interest by emailing us:

Email Us!

## If You've Ever Participated in the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program

We would like to interview you for an upcoming issue of the PC4AA newsletter to learn:

- What did your service mean to you?
- How did your experiences change your life and practice?
- How did your presence affect the health of communities where you served?
- What stories stay with you?
- What does the NHSC mean for healthcare today?

Please click below to contact [Eve Shapiro](#) and share your story!

Contact Eve

If you missed our most recent Teach-In/Learn-In, *What Communities Need to Know about how Health Care Went Wrong*, with Dr. Andy Lazris, you can watch here!



Watch Video

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# 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!

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# HOW TO BOOST PC4AA ON SOCIALS!



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

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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!](#)

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## 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.



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

[PC4AA Videos](#)

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## The PC4AA Website is now available in Spanish!

[PC4AA Español](#)

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

[Join Us!](#)

Primary Care for All Americans | 8900 Van Wyck Expressway | Jamaica, NY 11418 US

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