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## This Week in Primary Care The More Primary Care Clinicians #2! Issue

If we're going to get to Primary Care for All Americans, we will need more primary care clinicians! Last issue reviewed the policy origins of the U.S. physician shortage, and highlighted ways to train more physicians and support more of them to stay in primary care. Now, we turn to the other almost half of U.S. primary care clinicians: nurse practitioners (NPs). As of 2022, NPs made up [47%](#) of primary care clinicians— up from [19%](#) in 2010. (2022: 270,660 NPs, 279,194 physicians, 28,282 PAs. 2010: 55,400 NPs, 205,000 full-time-equivalent physicians, 27,700 PAs.)

NP training starts with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, continues with one or more years working as a nurse, and finishes with a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). These advanced degree programs typically last 2-3 years full time, although there are 15-18-month accelerated programs. Graduates must pass a national exam in their field of choice (65% Family, 21% Adult Gerontology Primary Care, Psych Mental Health, Pediatric Primary Care, or Women's Health, and 12% non-primary-care fields per the [American Academy of Nurse Practitioners](#)), and can then either enter practice or optionally undertake an additional year of supervised practice.

Currently NPs can practice independently in [27 states](#); the remaining 23 impose restrictions on scope and/or require a formal supervisory or collaborative relationship with a physician. NPs practice in community health centers, private clinics, VA facilities, and long-term care facilities, in multidisciplinary teams or on their own. They may care for their own group of patients as a primary care clinician or share responsibility for a group of patients with other clinicians. The evidence base is still developing on what roles and team configurations in primary care support best health, at lowest cost, with a well workforce, but it is clear that nurse practitioners play an essential and growing role in getting to Primary Care for All Americans.


In this light, it is disappointing that Congress is advancing plans to cut support for nursing faculty and nursing pathways programs next year (see [press release](#) below). We should be training more, not fewer, nurses and nurse practitioners. Communities and states can create additional opportunities for postgraduate supervised clinical practice (as the [VA](#) and some [federally qualified health centers](#) are already doing), to help build skills and

confidence in the transition to providing comprehensive primary care. And communities and researchers can study what roles and team configurations best support access to the comprehensive, continuous, coordinated, first-contact care that characterizes high-quality primary care.

Americans [trust nurses](#) more than any other profession, and have for over 20 years. Join us at tonight's Teach-In/Learn-In to dig into public distrust & American medicine, with Dr. Bryant Adibe!

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**TONIGHT: September 30th Teach-In/Learn-In!**



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



**Bryant A.  
Adibe, M.D.**

**Public Distrust &  
American Medicine:  
Past and Present**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**[bit.ly/sep30zoom](https://bit.ly/sep30zoom)**

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

Register Now!

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## House Appropriations Committee Votes to Cut Title VIII Nursing Programs in its FY 2026 Spending Bill

Washington, D.C., September 10, 2025 - The [American Association of Colleges of Nursing \(AACN\)](#) is deeply disappointed by the vote to cut federal programs supporting nurse faculty and pathways into the profession. Yesterday, the House Appropriations Committee advanced its Labor, Health and Humans Services, and Education (LHHS-ED) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 spending bill by a vote of 35 to 28. The measure called for significant cuts to Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, including the elimination of the Nurse Faculty Loan Program and the Nursing Workforce Diversity Program. Though AACN was pleased to see that the National Institute of Nursing Research

[Read the Brief](#)

Did you miss our most recent Teach-In/Learn-In?

Share it with friends? Watch it again?

You can watch here!



[Watch Video](#)



**PRIMARY CARE** FOR ALL AMERICANS

**Teach-In/Learn-In**  
Tuesday, August 5  
8:30pm EDT

**Len Fromer, MD**  
**Leveraging Market Forces to Bring Primary Care to All Americans**

Do you have skills to share?  
Volunteer with Primary Care for All Americans!

[Let Us Know](#)

**Become a Primary Care Champion!**

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

Donate Now

## 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!

## 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 issue 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.



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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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