June 29, 2026

The Honorable David Rouzer
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Courtney
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jen Kiggans
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ami Bera
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Prioritizing Primary Care Act of 2026: HR 8765

Dear Representatives Rouzer, Kiggans, Courtney and Bera,

On behalf of the Primary Care Collaborative (PCC) and PCC's Better Health – NOW campaign (BHN), we are pleased to support H.R. 8765, the Prioritizing Primary Care Act of 2026. This legislation is a critical step in understanding how the federal government can invest more in the foundation of every high performing health system – primary care.

The PCC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, coalition of 65 organizational members, including clinicians, patient advocates, employer groups and health plans. The PCC and its members are dedicated to a high-quality health care system rooted in whole-person primary care, with a focus on comprehensive, ongoing relationships and addressing underlying factors to enhance patient experience and health outcomes.

Research has consistently shown that primary care is the foundation of an effective health care system. Primary care is often the first point of contact within the health care system and serves as trusted partners in prevention, chronic disease management and care coordination. Strong primary care systems are associated with lower mortality rates, increased life expectancy, better health outcomes and reduced chronic disease burden.[i,ii,iii]

Despite primary care's central role in improving health outcomes and lowering overall health care costs, primary care only accounted for 4.5% of total US health care spending in 2023 – down from 5.4% in 2012. [iv,v] More Americans are seeking care in expensive settings—including urgent care centers and emergency departments [vi]—or deferring care altogether. Unsurprisingly, chronic conditions are on the rise, imperiling Americans' health and costing taxpayers $4.4

trillion annually.[vii] This chronic underinvestment has led to the US funding a broken, reactive, sick-care system rather than supporting proactive care that can prevent chronic diseases from developing.

H.R. 8765 takes an important first step in fostering transparency and equipping the federal government to better understand how to make and keep primary care a top priority across the breadth of federal programs. By requiring annual reports on federal primary care spending, Congress can help ensure that federal health care dollars are being properly invested in prevention, chronic disease management and behavioral health. This bill follows the lead of nearly 20 states that have existing initiatives to identify and strengthen primary care spending.[viii]

This bipartisan legislation is vital to identifying opportunities to expand access to care and strengthen the backbone of the American health care system – primary care. It is also a vital step to ensuring that our nation's value based care programs are successful as primary care is the main driver of achieving success in these important programs focused on improving health care performance and value.

The PCC and our BHN campaign appreciate your leadership in championing the Prioritizing Primary Care Act of 2026 and your commitment to strengthening investment in primary care. We look forward to working with you and Congress to advance policies that support high quality primary care. Please contact PCC's Director of Policy, Larry McNeely (lmcneely@thepcc.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ann Greiner
President & CEO
Primary Care Collaborative

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[i] Jabbarpour, Y., Jetty, A., Byun, H., Siddiqi, A., Park, J., & Koller, C. F. (2026). Investing in primary care: the missing strategy in America's fight against chronic disease. Milbank Memorial Fund. https://www.milbank.org/publications/investing-in-primary-care-the-missing-strategy-in-americas-fight-against-chronic-disease/

[ii] Primary Care Collaborative. (2026). Primary Care in United States. In thepcc.org [Report]. https://thepcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Primary-Care-in-United-States.pdf

[iii] Steinberg, J. & National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2021). NASEM Report: Implementing High Quality Primary Care. https://ctc-

ri.org/sites/default/files/uploads/CTC_RI_%20NASEM_Primary_Care_Report_Reflections%20508%20compliant%20sent%202021%207-23.pdf

[iv] Primary Care Collaborative. (2025). Make Medicare Beneficiaries Healthier by Strengthening Primary Care. https://thepcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Make-Medicare-Beneficiaries-Healthier-Issue-Brief.pdf

[v] "National Health Expenditures - 2023," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Accessed March 24, 2026, https://www.cms.gov/data-research/statisticstrends-and-reports/national-health-expenditure-data/historical

[vi] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trend Tables Health, United States, 2020–2021," Table EDAd.
Emergency Department Visits Within the Past 12 Months Among Adults Aged 18 and Over, by Selected Characteristics: United States, Selected Years 1997–2019, 2021, https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/2020-2021/EdAd.pdf

[vii] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Fast Facts: Health and Economic Costs of Chronic Conditions," https://www.cdc.gov/chronic-disease/data-research/facts-stats/index.html

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