

PCC Calls to Fund AHRQ's Center for Primary Care Research at \$5 Million

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Blunt, Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking Member Cole,

The Primary Care Collaborative calls on Congress to fund the Primary Care Research Center within the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). This Center—long authorized in statute, but never expressly funded—offers to contribute important knowledge to the delivery of high-quality primary care at a time when such insights are essential to the long-term health of the nation.

The Primary Care Collaborative, on behalf of its 60 member organizations, requests \$5 million in dedicated funding for AHRQ's Center for Primary Care Research in FY2022. We are a national multi-stakeholder organization committed to advancing robust primary care as the foundation of a high-performing health system. Our members span clinicians, but also consumer advocates, health plans, health systems, and employers who believe that primary care is integral to promoting healthy communities and controlling healthcare costs.

Yet for primary care to meet the evolving patient needs of Americans—from managing chronic disease and promoting healthy lifestyles, to triaging and treating new viruses such as the latest coronavirus—it must be backed by sound and timely research. The federal government dedicates millions of dollars to research of disease-specific clinical areas, but has failed to similarly invest in primary care research that affects the “upstream” wellbeing of all Americans. The Center for Primary Care has never

received dedicated funding, despite being statutorily authorized in 1999, and AHRQ's reduced budget has meant even fewer dollars are being directed to clinical and practice research in primary care.

As the pandemic continues to plague the country's health system and communities, primary care is playing a critical response role: clinicians are actively reaching out to high-risk patients, administering covid vaccines, linking patients with community-based supports, testing and triaging COVID infections, and maintaining preventative care via new, often remote, models of care. The Primary Care Collaborative believes now, more than ever, we need the best science bolstering primary care's efforts so that the country can better ensure the long-term health of our nation. Dedicated funding for AHRQ's Center for Primary Care Research is one important step toward achieving that goal.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact the Primary Care Collaborative's Policy Director, Sarah Greenough (sgreenough@ThePCC.org), with any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann C. Greiner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann Greiner
President & CEO
Primary Care Collaborative

PCC Executive Members

Below is a list of the Primary Care Collaborative's executive members that pay dues to the organization and support its mission. Membership does not indicate explicit endorsement of this letter.

AARP
Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC)
Alzheimer's Association
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP)
American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
American Academy of PAs (AAPA)
American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
American Board of Family Medicine Foundation (ABFM Foundation)
American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation (ABIM Foundation)
American Cancer Society
American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)
American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM)
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP)
American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI)
American College of Physicians (ACP)
American Psychiatric Association Foundation
American Psychological Association
America's Agenda
Anthem
Ascension Medical Group
Black Women's Health Imperative (BWHI)
Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
Community Care of North Carolina
CVS Health
Geisinger Health
Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care
HealthTeamWorks
Humana, Inc.
IBM
Innovaccer
Institute for Patient and Family-Centered Care (IPFCC)
Johns Hopkins Community Physicians, Inc.
Johnson & Johnson
Mathematica Policy Research
Mental Health America
Merck & Co.
Morehouse School of Medicine - National Center for Primary Care
National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions
National Association of ACOs (NAACOS)
National Coalition on Health Care
National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health (NIIOH)

National PACE Association
National Partnership for Women and Families
NCQA
One Medical
Purchaser Business Group on Health (PBGH)
PCC EHR Solutions
Pediatric Innovation Center
Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC)
Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM)
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM)
St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition
Takeda Pharmaceuticals U.S.A.
The Verden Group's Patient Centered Solutions
UPMC Health Plan
URAC
