DELIVERING ON THE PROMISE OF PRIMARY CARE

We know that a strong primary care-based health system leads to:

**BETTER HEALTH**

The evidence shows that access to primary care can help us live longer, healthier lives.\(^1\)

Studies suggest that as many as 127,617 deaths per year in the United States could be averted through an increase in the number of primary care physicians.\(^2\)

**BETTER CARE**

Urban and rural communities that have an adequate supply of primary care practitioners experience lower infant mortality, higher birth weights, and immunization rates at or above national standards despite social disparities.\(^4\)

An increase of one primary care doctor per 10,000 people can decrease costly and unnecessary care.\(^5\)

- Outpatient visits 5.0%
- ER visits 10.9%
- Inpatient admissions 5.5%
- Surgeries 7.2%

Evidence also shows that primary care (in contrast to specialty care) is associated with a more equitable distribution of health in populations, a finding that holds in both cross-national and within-national studies.\(^3\)

**LOWER COST**

A primary care-based system may cost less because patients experience fewer hospitalizations, less duplication, and more appropriate technology.\(^4\)

Medicare spending is less for states with more primary care physicians and yet these states have more effective, higher-quality care.\(^6\)

U.S. adults who have a primary care physician have 33 percent lower health care costs.\(^1\)

A health system that undervalues primary care has resulted in health care spending that is more than double that of other industrialized countries, yet America ranks 24th out of 30 in life expectancy.\(^7\)

The evidence is clear – and the time to act is now. We can put the health back in health care by making America a place where Health is Primary.