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October 1, 2026

"The safety of the people is the highest law"
-CICERO

Why You Can't Find a Primary Care Doctor

Reason 1 - Prevention is not a priority in our national health care system. Even though primary care medicine prevents illness and reduces its severity, not to mention saves lives.

According to government and industry statistics, less than 5% of health care spending goes to primary care. The other 95% of the money goes to hospitals, prescriptions and administration. Americans spend twice as much on health care than Europeans, but with worse outcomes for American patients. According to a Peterson KFF report, Canada spends $7,301 per capita, while the U.S. spends $14,775 per capita.

Reason 2 - Family medicine doctors earn 50% less than surgeons. So, medical students with huge student debt enter the more lucrative fields of medicine. The Bureau of Health Workforce projects a shortfall of 87,000 primary care physicians by 2037. Meanwhile, the federal government works to deport foreign medical students.

Reason 3 - The pressure for profit in the healthcare industry forces the remaining family medicine doctors to see more patients, but spend less time with them. The situation harms the doctors. 45% of primary care doctors report burnout and many doctors plan to stop seeing patients. That happened to my wife Frances, who found her primary care doctor at DMH leave his practice. All of this adds up to a crisis in primary care. And Congress does nothing about it.

Respectfully,

William C. Faber, Jr.