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## Vermont Legislative Day - Bi-State and Members Give Testimony and Host Reception

MONTPELIER, VT -- (Feb 11, 2014) – Bi-State and its members spent the day at the Vermont State House testifying before the House Health Care Committee and meeting with Senate Pro Tempore John Campbell and Claire Ayer, Chair of Senate Health and Welfare, and Speaker of the House Shap Smith to promote their role in health care reform and their efforts to recruit and retain primary care providers.



Sharon M. Winn, director of VT Public Policy, stated that Bi-State is a member organization with [80 health center locations](#) in Vermont that include Federally Qualified Health Centers, rural health clinics, rural primary care practices, clinics for the uninsured, the area health education center

network and the Planned Parenthood of Northern New England clinics. Bi-State members provide comprehensive and integrated care to people of all ages, with services that include primary and preventive care, dental care, mental health and substance abuse services, and case management.

The integrated model of health care practiced by Vermont’s Community Health Centers is “the cornerstone of what we need with regard to the Blueprint...and a great place to break down the fragmentation of the medical system,” said Senator George Till, Chair, House Health Care Committee. “You are really heroes... this committee has been an enthusiastic supporter of your Health Centers and your work.”

Bi-State Recruitment Center Director Stephanie Pagliuca urged the committee to continue investments in workforce development. Funding initiatives such as loan forgiveness and investment in national marketing and outreach to recruit qualified providers will help address the primary care physician shortage.

[President and Chief Executive Officer Tess Stack Kuenning](#) also asked lawmakers to support the infrastructure needed for the success of Community Health Accountable Care, a network of providers that share responsibility for providing care to a population of patients. Founded by a number of members, Community Health Accountable Care builds on the Patient-Centered Medical Home model and the Vermont Blueprint for Health, the state’s chronic care initiative.

[Bi-State Primary Care Association](#), serving Vermont and New Hampshire, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization established in 1986 that promotes access to effective and affordable primary care and preventive services for all, with special emphasis on underserved populations.

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