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## NH Community Health Centers: A Smart Investment - NH Legislative, Business Breakfast



*(L-R) Tess Stack Kuenning, President/CEO, Senate President Morse, and Kristine Stoddard, Esq., Director, NH Public Policy.*

CONCORD, NH (Feb. 6, 2014) -- Legislators, commissioners, and business and health care leaders turned out for Bi-State's Legislative and Business Breakfast in Concord on Thursday, a day later than originally scheduled due to the snowstorm. The crowd gathered for an early morning breakfast and an update on how New Hampshire's Community Health Centers provide access to primary and preventive health care, especially to middle and lower income residents and those living in medically underserved areas. Bi-State showed a new video, [Community Health Centers: A Smart Investment](#), and guest speaker Senate President Chuck Morse delivered the opening speech.

In his remarks, Sen. Morse said, "Last year, Community Health Centers provided quality preventative care services to over 100,000 New Hampshire residents, including many in underserved regions of our state. As a result, residents across New Hampshire had access to the basic preventative care, screenings, and health education opportunities they need to live healthy and productive lives. Due in large part to their comprehensive approach to care management, New Hampshire's Health Centers lead the nation in the treatment of chronic disease such as asthma and diabetes, and they do so in a way that makes them one of, if not the most, cost effective providers of care in our state...Bi-State's commitment to improving the health of New Hampshire's residents is without question. And the successes achieved by our Community Health Centers should provide a model for other facilities in New England and across the nation. As Senate President, it is important to me that we as elected officials are doing what we can to support the outstanding work you are doing."

In closing remarks, Tess Stack Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN, president and CEO of Bi-State, urged the legislators to consider the cost-savings achieved through primary and preventive care and asked the legislators to fund the primary care contracts, the state's loan repayment program – an important tool in recruiting and retaining primary care providers, to support expansion of the expansion of health care coverage to adults, and to consider the role of oral health in overall health and the importance of ensuring access to dental care for all.

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