

525 Clinton Street
Bow, NH 03304
Voice: 603-228-2830
Fax: 603-228-2464



61 Elm Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
Voice: 802-229-0002
Fax: 802-223-2336

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Susan Noon 603-228-2830 x 144

Image attached: Senators and Advocates Applaud as Governor Signs of HB 1696

Health Protection Program Gives Granite Staters a New Lease on Life

Concord, NH - April 6, 2016 -- Governor Hassan signed HB 1696, the bill that reauthorizes the NH Health Protection Program, into law yesterday alongside leaders in the legislature and many advocates who supported the passage of HB 1696.

Bi-State Primary Care Association and our members applaud the NH House, Senate and Governor's Office for their continued bipartisan support of this critically important program. The NH Health Protection Program provides access to preventive and primary care to nearly 50,000 New Hampshire residents. The substance use disorder benefit included in this program has continuously been recognized as one of the greatest tools to battle our state's ongoing opioid epidemic.

"The NH Health Protection Program gives Granite Staters a new lease on life," said Tess Stack Kuenning, president and CEO of Bi-State Primary Care Association. "Bi-State thanks Senator Bradley, Representative Lachance, Speaker Jasper, Senate President Morse, Governor Hassan, and the many legislators who worked diligently to reauthorize the New Hampshire Health Protection Program. It is because of their compassion and leadership that nearly 50,000 New Hampshire residents will have the opportunity to get and stay healthy."

Health centers have repeatedly highlighted the benefits of this program in the form of reductions in uncompensated care, increases in the number of insured lives served, and most importantly, stories of lives that have been transformed and saved as a result of access to health care. As a result of this program, health centers have seen a 24 percent reduction in sliding fee discount and charity care provided and a 36 percent reduction in the number of uninsured patients at their facilities.

Bi-State and our members look forward to working with state leadership and policymakers to ensure continued support for data collection around this program's efficacy in order to make the decision to reauthorize it in another two years a simple one.

###

ABOUT BI-STATE PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

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

With offices in Vermont and New Hampshire, Bi-State works with federal, state, and regional health policy organizations, foundations, and payers to develop strategies, policies, and programs that provide and support community-based primary health care services in medically underserved areas.