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## **BI-STATE PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION 2017 National Public Policy Principles and Priorities**

### ***Public Policy Principles***

Bi-State Primary Care Association has a steadfast commitment to improving the health of New Hampshire and Vermont residents. Our work is to ensure that all individuals have access to affordable, appropriate, high-quality integrated medical, oral, mental health and substance use disorder treatment primary and preventive health care, regardless of insurance or ability to pay.

Our work focuses on population based approaches to comprehensive community-based quality primary and preventive care for the public, as well as preserving, strengthening and expanding the Community Health Centers and primary care safety net providers. We work on behalf of the general public, with special emphasis on low and moderate income families.

Bi-State's work is to grow, sustain and strengthen primary care providers and primary care workforce to assure and promote health care access for all.

To achieve our goals, Bi-State works with federal, state and regional health policy organizations, foundations and payers to develop strategies and programs that promote and sustain community-based, primary health care services.

As such, Bi-State's health care policy work at the state and national level is primary to our purpose.

### ***Public Policy Priorities Highlights***

#### ***Health Care Systems and Finance Reform***

- Work toward universal coverage and access that is available and affordable to everyone.
- Work toward coverage that is comprehensive, sufficient, equitable, fair and sustainable.

#### ***Appropriations for the Community Health Center and National Health Service Corps Programs***

- Promote and support increased and sustained appropriations for the Health Center Program to preserve, strengthen and expand the model.
- Promote and support expanded resources for new primary care access points and expanded medical, oral, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, pharmacy and vision services, as well as resources for special populations such as homeless, public housing and migrant and seasonal agriculture workers.
- Promote and support increased appropriations for the National Health Service Corps Program with special emphasis on priority allocation of providers to Health Centers.

#### ***Medicaid***

- Promote and support a strong viable Medicaid program with fair and equitable prospective reimbursement to Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics.

#### ***Medicare***

- Promote and support a strong viable Medicare program with fair and equitable reimbursement to Health Centers and Rural Health Centers.

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***Workforce***

- Promote and support increased and sustained federal investments to favorably affect recruitment and retention of primary care providers with special emphasis to assure providers serve in underserved communities.
- Promote and support increased and sustained federal investments to expand the National Health Service Corps Program.
- Ensure continued support for the Conrad 30 and J-1 Visa Waiver Programs and promote the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Loan Program.
- Promote and support increased and sustained federal investments in the Area Health Education Centers Programs to support the development of a primary care workforce.

***Capital***

- Promote and support access to capital for Health Centers through federal appropriations, New Market Tax Credits, tax exempt bonds, loan guarantees and mortgage insurance.

***Other Public Policy Priorities***

- Promote and support the integrity of the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) coverage for employed and volunteer staff at Federally Qualified Health Centers and Free Clinics.
- Promote and support the integrity and continued availability of 340B drug pricing options for patients through Health Centers and other safety net providers.
- Promote and support adequate and sustained funding for the Maternal and Child Health (Title V), Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program and Title X Family Planning.