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## **Bi-State Primary Care Association Opposes HB 271 February 5, 2013**

My name is Kristine Stoddard and I am the Director of New Hampshire Public Policy for Bi-State Primary Care Association and a licensed attorney in New Hampshire.

Bi-State is a non-profit organization that promotes access to effective and affordable primary care and preventive services for all. 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.

Bi-State members include Federally Qualified Health Centers, Community Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, private and hospital-supported primary care practices, Community Action Programs, Health Care for the Homeless, Area Health Education Centers, and a Health Centered Control Network.

**Please vote HB 271 “Inexpedient to Legislate.”** Bi-State Primary Care Association opposes HB 271, which would prohibit the State from expanding Medicaid to include the most vulnerable citizens in our state. This bill will not only inhibit economic growth in New Hampshire, but it will also prohibit low and moderate income families across the state from accessing vital coverage.

**Medicaid expansion will reduce the number of uninsured New Hampshire residents by over 99,000.** By 2014, over 170,000 New Hampshire residents will be uninsured. If the state chooses to expand Medicaid, the number of uninsured will be reduced by 99,000. Medicaid expansion means that the waitress who pours your coffee will not let her next cough develop into pneumonia before she seeks treatment simply because she cannot afford the emergency room bill.

**A greater number of Community Health Center patients will be insured.** New Hampshire’s 16 CHCs provide cost-effective, high-quality, comprehensive care to 125,000 people. They provide a medical home to you, your family, and your neighbors. Over 35,000 of the patients treated by CHCs are uninsured. Over 71% of the patients treated at CHCs are living at or below 150% of the FPL. Medicaid expansion will provide coverage to people living at or below 138% of the FPL. The annual income for an individual living at 138% is approximately \$15,000, far below NH’s livable wage.

**Please vote HB 271 “Inexpedient to Legislate” because it fails to move New Hampshire forward.** Medicaid expansion **will** move New Hampshire forward by reducing the number of uninsured in our State, resulting in a healthier, more productive workforce, and a better home for you, your family, and every citizen in New Hampshire.

Respectfully submitted,

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