WASHINGTON D.C. – March 28, 2019 – Thousands of advocates from Community Health Centers nationwide are meeting with their Members of Congress on Capitol Hill this week. Advocates from Vermont’s Federally Qualified Health Centers will join Bi-State Primary Care Association in meetings with the Vermont Congressional Delegation to present information about their Vermont patients and discuss their needs regarding affordable prescription drugs, medication-assisted treatment, social programs such as WIC, SNAP and TANF, and Medicaid in Vermont.

In recognition of their unyielding support of health care access for all, especially for medically underserved populations, Vermont’s Congressional Delegation members: Sen. Patrick Leahy; Sen. Bernie Sanders; and Congressman Peter Welch, will each be presented with a Community Health Award from the National Association of Community Health Centers.

“Just today, Senator Sanders announced a new bill that will provide needed funding for Community Health Centers. The Vermont Congressional Delegation has been consistent in their strong support and leadership for this funding, which ensures Vermonter’s will continue to have access to effective and affordable primary care and support services,” said Tess Stack Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN, President/CEO, Bi-State Primary Care Association. “We express our sincere appreciation to them for protecting the health and well-being of their constituents and patients across the country.”

Bipartisan Congressional support for the Federally Qualified Health Center program has remained strong through every Republican and Democratic Administration since its inception in 1965. The program has grown from two small health centers established in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Mound Bayou, Mississippi, to 1,400 Community Health Centers nationwide, serving more than 28 million patients, and offering integrated medical, oral, and behavioral health care services, including substance use disorder treatment. Find a health center in New Hampshire or Vermont.

# # #

Bi-State Primary Care Association is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) charitable organization representing New Hampshire and Vermont’s 28 Community Health Centers currently providing primary care to more than 317,000 patients at 126 sites. Bi-State promotes access to high quality, cost-effective primary health care with a special emphasis on access for underserved and vulnerable populations. Bi-State Primary Care Association was founded in 1986 and has offices in Bow, New Hampshire, and Montpelier, Vermont.