Supporting Community Health Centers a Priority for Congresswoman-Elect Kuster

FRANKLIN, NH – Dec. 18, 2012 – Ann McLane Kuster, newly elected congresswoman from NH’s 2nd Congressional District, visited Health First Family Care Center in Franklin, NH, on Dec. 3. With offices in Franklin and Laconia, Health First is a Community Health Center providing primary care services to more than 3,600 residents in 24 rural townships.

Health First’s executive director, Richard Silverberg, and Tess Stack Kuenning, executive director of Bi-State Primary Care Association, discussed the issues of greatest concern to NH’s Community Health Centers during Kuster’s visit. Kuenning also familiarized her with Bi-State’s 2013 Public Policy Principles, a document outlining the priorities and policies that will guide Bi-State in its efforts to expand access to primary care in NH in the year ahead.

Silverberg and Kuenning took Kuster on a tour of Health First’s primary care facility in Franklin and introduced her to staff and providers. “We are quite fortunate to have Ann Kuster representing our issues in Congress,” said Kuenning. “She has a fierce commitment to fight for the issues we value most. She understands the barriers to care that face our most vulnerable populations and she supports our efforts to increase access to health care by strengthening, growing, and supporting Community Health Centers.” Kuster confirmed her support by saying, “One of my top priorities in Congress will be to increase access to affordable quality health care services for all families in New Hampshire, including support to patients served by our outstanding Community Health Centers across the state.”

Bi-State Primary Care Association, serving Vermont and New Hampshire, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization that 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.

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