CONCORD, NH – Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015 -- Our state faces an unprecedented opioid epidemic; which unfortunately, affects every individual, family and business in New Hampshire. Bi-States urges our elected officials to address the opioid crisis. We ask for a thoughtful approach that incorporates the invaluable experience of the provider community and addresses this public health matter on all fronts: in particular, the integration of primary care and behavioral health services, and long-term recovery supports and services. These services are critical to preventing addiction to heroin and the misuse of prescription opioids.

“Community Health Centers, like many primary care providers, are currently experiencing a greater demand for substance use services. Health Centers strive to integrate primary and behavioral health services, however, the state needs to increase funding and support for a comprehensive range of community-based substance use services that include prevention, intervention and treatment,” said Tess Stack Kuenning, president and CEO of Bi-State Primary Care Association. “We look forward to working with elected officials, state agencies, advocacy groups, and the provider community to develop solutions to these challenges.”

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