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Continuation of Medicaid Expansion a Victory for Granite State
Medicaid Expansion more than doubled capacity to treat substance use disorder

CONCORD, NH - May 2, 2018 – Today, NH’s Legislature voted to support Senate Bill 313, bipartisan legislation that reauthorizes the State’s Medicaid expansion program. Bi-State Primary Care Association commends the members of the NH Legislature and Gov. Chris Sununu, who worked diligently to ensure that over 52,000 Granite Staters continue to have access to health insurance coverage.

Since the program’s inception four years ago, less than 15 percent have been enrolled consistently. As peoples’ lives improve, they transition off the program, which means it is doing what it was designed to do. Medicaid expansion covers tens of thousands of hard-working individuals employed in the health care, education, tourism, and retail industries, and allows us to reinvest our federal tax dollars back into the State’s economy.

Bi-State represents 16 Community Health Centers throughout NH whose patients and local communities benefit from this program every day. As a direct result of Medicaid expansion, health centers have experienced a considerable increase in patient demand and number of new patients, as well as a reduction in the number of uninsured patients. Medicaid expansion reduces financial strain on health centers, enabling them to reinvest in programs and services that benefit all patients.

Medicaid expansion has more than doubled treatment capacity for substance use disorder treatment in NH by including behavioral health and SUD treatment among its 10 essential benefits. Because of this program, more than 7,500 unique individuals receive SUD treatment per quarter, with 82 percent specifically for opiate use. The benefits of treatment include improved birth outcomes among pregnant women, an increase in patients’ ability to gain and maintain employment, and a decrease in opiate use and other criminal activity in our communities.

“We are thrilled that both Republicans and Democrats in the NH Legislature have voted to continue Medicaid expansion, as it impacts the health of our friends, neighbors, and economy. It takes action against the opioid epidemic by covering behavioral health and SUD services, and
saves lives of our loved ones and fellow Granite Staters,” said Tess Stack Kuenning, president and CEO of Bi-State. “The continuation of Medicaid expansion is indeed a victory for the Granite State.”

About Bi-State

Established in 1986, Bi-State Primary Care Association, serving NH and VT, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)3 charitable organization that promotes access to effective and affordable primary care and preventive services for all, with special emphasis on underserved populations.

With offices in NH and VT, 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.

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