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February 27, 2019

Senate Health and Welfare Committee
State of Vermont
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: S. 42 An Act Relating to Requiring at Least One Member of the Green Mountain Care Board to be a Health Care Professional

Sent via email to MSuttonSmith@leg.state.vt.us

Dear Chair Lyons and Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee,

Bi-State Primary Care Association appreciates the opportunity to provide comment in support of 42 An Act Relating to Requiring at Least One Member of the Green Mountain Care Board to be a Health Care Professional.

Established in 1986, Bi-State Primary Care Association (Bi-State) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 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 in Vermont and New Hampshire. Bi-State's Vermont membership includes Federally-Qualified Health Centers, Area Health Education Centers, Grace Cottage Rural Health Clinics, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, and Vermont's free clinics. We serve over 200,000 Vermonters.

Bi-State and our members are dedicated to the health of Vermonters and ensuring we have a sustainable health care system that provides the best care. We are committed to improving the health of Vermonters and ensuring that all individuals have access to affordable and high-quality primary medical, mental health, substance use disorder, and oral health services, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

With this in mind, we support S. 42, which would require at least one member of the Green Mountain Care Board to be a clinician. Our members are providing care for Vermonters every day and the perspective brought by a clinician is unique and invaluable for the Green Mountain Care Board's decision-making as it relates to the All-Payer Model and other regulatory activities.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please let me know. I can be reached at gmaheras@bistatepca.org or 802-229-0002 ext. 218.

Sincerely,

Georgia J. Maheras, Esq.
Vice President, Policy and Programs
Bi-State Primary Care Association