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Bi-State Primary Care Association Statement of Commitment: We stand together in solidarity.

Tess Stack Kuenning, President and CEO

June 5, 2020

The Bi-State Primary Care Association shares our nation's grief as we mourn the death of George Floyd. The pall across our nation is palpable with structural inequalities, social injustice, and a deep sorrow of hundreds of years of racism and oppression. Community Health Centers' origins are rooted in the Civil Rights and social justice movement of the 1960s. Bi-State supports the Health Centers with the public, elected officials, public policy leaders, businesses and stakeholders demonstrating the value they bring to fulfill our mission of healthy individuals and communities with quality health care for all. Together we promote access to effective and affordable primary care and preventive services for all, with special emphasis on underserved populations in Vermont and New Hampshire. Our organization lives by four values: Learning, Integrity, Responsiveness, and Respect.

As in the past and today, the Health Centers work in medically needy and underserved communities across our nation. Nationally, Health Centers serve as the health home to over 30 million Americans. Health Centers assure access to medical, mental and behavioral health, and oral and dental health care for their neighbors and communities. In addition, Health Centers work with their patients on safe housing, food security, access to education, and employment opportunities. As community-based health care providers to more than 325,000 people living in every county in New Hampshire and Vermont, Health Centers treat those impacted by poor health and lack of opportunity—including those on the receiving end of racism and discrimination because of the color of their skin, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, income level, or insurance status. The Health Centers provide services to children, youth, families, elders, farmworkers, Veterans, those who are homeless, people with financial means and those without; serving all with dignity and compassion.

The Health Centers serve as a safe and trusted place for health care services. Health Centers are there for you always; during the Covid-19 pandemic health crisis, during our economic crisis, and during this societal crisis.

As we begin to deal with and heal as a nation, Bi-State and the Health Centers commit to collectively working with our communities' and states in constructive and meaningful ways to move forward. The Health Centers are nimble, responsive, connected, and tireless in their dedication to the people of Vermont and New Hampshire. Working together at this difficult time we can emerge with stronger communities, healthier states, and a healthier nation. We will work together to meet the racial injustices and discrimination we have experienced or witnessed and commit to this work to assure everyone is treated fairly. Please join us in our efforts to make our communities safe and inviting for all.

Sincerely,

Tess Stack Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN
President and Chief Executive Officer
Bi-State Primary Care Association