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April 30, 2019

House Committee on Judiciary
State of Vermont
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: S. 37 – An Act Relating to Medical Monitoring

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

Dear Chair Grad and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

Bi-State Primary Care Association appreciates the opportunity to provide additional comment on S. 37 – An Act Relating to Medical Monitoring. We appreciate your work on this bill to-date.

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 12 Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) delivering primary care at 64 sites and serving over 177,000 Vermonters. Our members also include Area Health Education Centers, Grace Cottage Rural Health Clinics, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, and Vermont's free clinics.

As we expressed previously, we appreciate the opportunity to work with you to address our concerns related to this legislation. The latest version of the bill removes sections found in the previous version of the bill (1-3) that were of concern to us- thank you for this change. However, we are still concerned about the impact of the remaining provisions to our ability to continue to ensure Vermonters have access to the necessary primary and preventive services to ensure they are able to live, work, and play. To address this, we suggest an exclusion be added to Sec. 1 (7)(B)- Definitions. This exclusion would exempt health care providers, including health centers and hospitals. We believe this would address our remaining concerns.

We thank you for your consideration and appreciate the ability to work together with you to ensure that we continue to be able to offer high-quality, efficient primary care services throughout the state.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'gm' followed by a horizontal line.

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