

525 Clinton Street
Bow, NH 03304
Voice: 603-228-2830
Fax: 603-228-2464



61 Elm Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
Voice: 802-229-0002
Fax: 802-223-2336

www.bistatepca.org

April 8, 2026

Delivered via email

Dear Chair Lyons,

I am writing in support of several budget requests on behalf of Bi-State Primary Care Association members. Bi-State Primary Care Association is a nonprofit organization established in 1986 to advance access to comprehensive primary care and preventive services for anyone regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Today, Bi-State represents 28 member organizations across both Vermont and New Hampshire. Our members include Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Vermont Free and Referral Clinics, and Planned Parenthood of Northern New England.

We respectfully request that the Senate Health and Welfare Committee recommend to the Senate Appropriations Committee that the following be included in the FY2027 Budget.

Area Health Education Centers (AHEC): Bi-State supports restoring \$1,217,111 in funding in the FY2027 Budget to support the Vermont Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Network's work in primary care pipeline development and recruitment and retention efforts. This amount includes:

- \$667K for the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment program
- \$500K for grants to support early pipeline health careers programming
- \$50K for Physician Placement grants

Vermont Free and Referral Clinics (VFRC): Bi-State supports the increase of \$925,000 (\$462,500 in General Fund) in baseline funding for the VFRC. This funding increase comes at a critical time when an increased number of Vermonters are at risk of losing health care coverage or affordable health care coverage due to the end of the enhanced premium tax credits for exchange plans and changes to Medicaid eligibility assessments that could lead to loss of coverage for administrative purposes.

We also support funding of \$500,000 to VFRC through the Vermont Department of Health that would allow VFRC to serve as the administrative entity for Bridges for Health program.

Thank you for considering our requests.

Sincerely,

Mary Kate Mohlman, PhD, MS
Director for Vermont Public Policy
Bi-State Primary Care Association