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**“SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS LEADERSHIP AWARD” ESTABLISHED**



*Tess Stack Kuenning poses with Senator Sanders*

VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE – The newly established *Senator Bernie Sanders Leadership Award* was announced at Bi-State Primary Care Association’s 24th Annual Primary Care Conference held on May 18, 2010, in Fairlee, VT. Institutionalizing Senator Sanders name through the lasting legacy of this award is a gesture of appreciation and admiration for his lifelong commitment to advancing access to primary care, especially for the uninsured and those who are struggling to overcome poverty. More than 165 primary care clinicians and health center administrators were on hand to hear the announcement made by Bi-State’s Executive Director, Tess Stack Kuenning.

*Senator Bernie Sanders Leadership Award* will be selectively awarded by Bi-State Primary Care Association as a distinguished honor to individuals who significantly improve access to primary care. To be considered for the award, an individual will have made a significant contribution throughout their career and/or advanced access to primary care through a specific and enduring accomplishment.

Senator Sanders has been an avid supporter of Community Health Centers (CHCs) throughout his career. Through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act - Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (HR 4872), Senator Sanders helped secure funding that will enable CHCs to expand their operational capacity and enhance accessibility to medical, oral, and behavioral health services in preparation for serving an additional 20 million patients nationwide. Senator Sanders advocated for funding for expanding and improving existing CHC facilities and constructing new sites in underserved areas.

Senator Sanders invigorated and made it possible for CHCs to continue the important work they do in hundreds of communities across the country. Humbled and extremely appreciative, Senator Sanders accepted establishment of the award in his name from Bi-State Primary Care Association.

With offices in Concord, NH, and Montpelier, VT, Bi-State Primary Care Association is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works with federal, state, and regional health policy organizations and policymakers, foundations, and payers to develop strategies, policies, and programs that promote and sustain community-based, primary health care services.

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