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Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals Supports Question 4 - A Public Health Issue

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Boston – The Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals, an organization of fourteen Boston-area teaching hospitals, today announced its support for Question 4, a November ballot question which would ensure access to earned sick time for many Massachusetts residents.

“Disparities in access and health outcomes are often linked to an individual’s employment status. It is important that Massachusetts workers have the ability to take time to recover from an illness or take their child to see a doctor – it is a vital part of ensuring the overall health of an individual and family,” said John Erwin, Executive Director of the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals. “A ‘yes’ vote on Question 4 ties into the mission of our member hospitals to enhance the health of the patients and communities they serve.”

“All Massachusetts residents should have the ability seek the care they and their families need when they need it.” said John Fernandez, President and CEO of Mass. Eye and Ear and Chair of the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals. “Massachusetts offers its residents some of the best medical care in the country. It is important that residents are allowed time to access to that care. Question 4 is an issue of public health.”

If approved, Question 4 would require Massachusetts employers to provide their employees with sick time based on number of hours worked. Employees must work for an employer for 90 days prior to using their first sick day. Employees of companies with 10 or fewer employees would earn up to 40 hours of unpaid sick time, while employees of companies with 11 or more employees would earn up to 40 hours of paid sick time annually.

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The Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals (COBTH) is the coalition of 14 Boston area hospitals, all of which are teaching institutions. COBTH exists to maximize the Boston teaching hospitals' visibility on the issues that are fundamental to their unique missions of teaching and research. COBTH educates opinion leaders at all levels about the contributions of its members to the area's health and economy. In coalition with business organizations, COBTH advocates for policies favorable to academic medicine and the economy of the Commonwealth. COBTH is committed to addressing the public health needs of the City of Boston through cooperative efforts with other health care providers and agencies.