



Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals supports sick leave ballot

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Jessica Bartlett
 Reporter-
Boston Business Journal
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A week after four of the top health care systems in the state issued support for the earned sick time ballot question, the remaining members of the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals has thrown their weight behind the initiative.

The November question seeks to allow employees at companies with 10 or fewer employees up to 40 hours of unpaid sick time annually. Companies with 11 or more employees would have to give workers up to 40 hours paid sick leave annually.

Several Conference members have already backed the initiative, including Boston Medical Center, Boston Children's Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital under the Partners HealthCare umbrella, and Carney Hospital and St. Elizabeth's Medical Center under the Steward Health Care umbrella.

The latest support also brings Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Cambridge Health Alliance, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Lahey Hospital and Medical Center, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Tufts Medical Center, and VA Boston Healthcare System into the yes camp.

"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, which includes all 14 hospitals that have supported the initiative. "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."

Like several of the member hospitals, though the Coalition is supporting the initiative, Erwin said they are not providing any financial backing.

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John Erwin, executive director for the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals.