



GREATER BOSTON LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

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Dear Hospital Board Member,

I am writing to you on behalf of the 90,000 union members represented by the affiliated unions of the Greater Boston Central Labor Council to urge you to begin a new relationship with the workers at our region's hospitals.

I know that you have by now heard of the proposal by 1199 SEIU and the Area Trades Council that all Massachusetts hospitals where workers have not yet joined together into unions agree to a "Free and Fair Election Code of Conduct," under which healthcare workers would be free to make the choice of whether to join together into unions, free from management intimidation and coercion, under fair secret ballot conditions.

I am writing to convey to you that this simple act of respect toward your own hospital's workers is the highest priority for the entire Labor Movement in our area.

And so, I am appealing to you as a key decision maker, to do the right thing. You have taken on the role of a hospital board member out of your love for our community and for the hospital's role in it. A Free and Fair code of conduct is consistent with that:

We believe in the success of our hospitals. We believe that for our hospitals to continue to be successful, by definition, the voice of the workers needs to be heard and respected. Right now one out of ever six jobs in Boston is a hospital job, and yet far too many caregivers can't afford to live in the neighborhoods where they work, and far too many can't even afford health insurance for their families – while working in hospitals. And far too many feel that they aren't considered part of a patient care team, but rather that they are treated as adversaries by their own hospital's management. That just doesn't make sense.

For our hospitals to continue to be a source of pride for the Boston area, they should have the most progressive and respectful relationship with their own workers, and not the least. Please join with us in beginning a new relationship. Join with us in calling for your hospital to adopt the Free and Fair Code of Conduct.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Rogers
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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