



November 2, 2007

Dear Beth Israel Deaconess Needham Supporter,

We applaud your generosity to BID, of which you have every right to be proud.

But while applauding your support, we ask that you tell the hospital's Board that no contributions or hospital funds should be used for *uncharitable* purposes.

Hospital workers throughout the Greater Boston area have been asking hospital CEOs to agree to a Free and Fair Code of Conduct. Healthcare workers should be *free* to make up their own minds on whether to join together as a union *free* from intimidation or coercion from management under *fair* secret ballot conditions.

There is growing public support for this code of conduct, including a unanimous vote by the Boston City Council, and from Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

Many hospitals throughout the country have agreed to similar codes of conduct. In the Boston area, only one CEO has come out stridently against the proposal — the CEO of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

In fact, in response to our proposal that hospitals not spend patient care funds to run a hostile campaign against their own caregivers, BIDMC's CEO refused, giving this explanation on his blog:

“Let me give just one example that is problematic in the approach suggested by the SEIU, *its point of not using patient care funds for anti-union activities. The term "patient care funds" is highly ambiguous.* All hospitals have multiple sources of revenues -- Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance companies, philanthropy, interest, dividends, intellectual property, sales of real estate -- and these dollars are indistinguishable once they are received....
[Emphasis added]

Please tell the BIDMC Board and Executives:
Campaigning against the hospital's own caregivers isn't charitable.
Making sure contributions go to making sick people well.