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Boston University
VOTE 'YES' ON QUESTION 1

Medical Center leaders seek employees' support of Question 1 on Election Day

The executive leadership and 10 leading physicians of the Hospital, the School of Medicine and Boston City Hospital are urging employees to support a smoking-prevention referendum, Question 1, on the ballot, on Tuesday, Nov. 3. This measure proposes that the state tobacco excise tax be increased by 25 cents per pack and that the proceeds generated be used to support youth health-education programs.

Increasing cigarette prices has proven to reduce tobacco use, especially among youth, in California. There, a measure similar to the Massachusetts proposal has decreased tobacco consumption by 19 percent since 1988.

The goal of the Massachusetts proposal is to reduce the enormous burden of tobacco-related disease in society, and generate revenue for smoking prevention and other health efforts.

"We are calling upon our employees to vote 'yes' on this important public-health initiative," says Hospital President J. Scott Abercrombie Jr., M.D. "The strategy has been proven effective in California. The benefits would be enormous in Massachusetts, where 90 percent of smokers become addicted before their 19th birthdays."

The American Cancer Society, the Massachusetts Medical Society and Blue Cross/Blue Shield are amongst the many organizations sponsoring this initiative through a coalition called The Massachusetts Coalition for a Healthy Future.