

My name is Joe DiMauro and I am here today representing the Coalition for Social Justice in support of House Bill 3844- An Act to limit excessive hospital operating margins and CEO compensation through greater financial transparency and House Bill 3843- The Patient Safety Act.

The Coalition for Social Justice is committed to fighting for working families across Massachusetts and the South Coast. As we work to address raising the wages and improving the working conditions of 1 million people in Massachusetts through two other ballot campaigns, we would be remiss not to address the other end of the spectrum where CEO compensation is exceeding 100 times that of the lowest paid employee in many hospitals across the state. House Bill 3844 would offer another layer of protection to Massachusetts' working families who today face the loss of essential services in their communities, while hospitals spend their tax dollars on multimillion dollar compensation packages for CEOs and stash the rest away in foreign bank accounts with little to no accountability to the public. As the amount of money sent to hospitals from public programs continues to increase, taxpayers have a right to know how their money is being spent- and that includes the disclosure of all financial assets and accounts. And at a time when health care costs continue to rise and families struggle to pay their bills, it is simply wrong to permit hospitals to increase their bottom line and pad their CEO compensation packages while denying citizens access to mental health services, substance abuse services and pediatric services because they aren't "profitable enough".

And as we continue to fight for access to quality, affordable health care for all citizens, we know that this must include safe patient limits in our hospitals. That is why we are here today in support of House Bill 3843 which would protect individuals in hospitals across the state. All citizens deserve to have the highest quality care- it should not matter which hospital, in which city, at what time of day. We believe these consistently safe conditions can only be created through the establishment by law of safe patient limits.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about these important issues.