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Beth Israel Medical Center Receives Perfect Score On Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality *Human Rights Campaign Applauds Outreach, Internal Efforts*

New York, NY (June 7, 2010) A new healthcare equality analysis from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation has found that Beth Israel Medical Center leads the nation in policies for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

The Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) 2010 independently reviewed a representative sample of 200 of the largest facilities nationwide, as well as data from 178 facilities across the country that voluntarily provided information on four main equality issues: patient non-discrimination; visitation policies; LGBT training; and employment non-discrimination policies. Beth Israel was one of only 11 individual facilities in the country that received perfect ratings. The analysis also found that 18 healthcare facilities in New York, a historically LGBT-friendly city, do not have fully inclusive non-discrimination policies for LGBT patients and their families.

“Since formally creating a comprehensive diversity initiative five years ago, we have implemented programs and policies to encourage associates to be comfortable with diversity and develop an appreciation for differences in race, gender and background in addition to sexual orientation,” says Harris M. Nagler, M.D., President of Beth Israel. “Our recognition as a ‘Top Performer’ by the HRC Foundation spotlights our commitment to champion a diverse workplace and foster an inclusive culture that delivers quality care to our diverse patient population.”

Beth Israel is at the forefront of a healthcare landscape that will likely face sweeping change for LGBT patient care. The Joint Commission, which accredits and certifies healthcare facilities nationwide, recently announced new standards that require fully inclusive non-discrimination policies. And in April, President Obama issued a memorandum directing Health and Human Services (HHS) to make rules that require all hospitals that receive federal Medicare and Medicaid funding to protect the visitation and healthcare decision-making rights of LGBT people.

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“Beth Israel takes enormous pride in the fact that we lead the nation in terms of our commitment to standards of equality,” says Michael Graziano, Co-Chair of Beth Israel’s LGBT Committee. “We urge all healthcare facilities to move toward greater inclusiveness to provide healthcare that is free of prejudice.”

For a link to the Healthcare Equality Index report and other supporting materials, please visit www.hrc.org/heipress and login with “heipress” password “Jf111#2.”

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