

Editorial: Vote ‘Yes’ on Prop. 4, children’s hospitals

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Proposition 4 on the Nov. 6 ballot would give the state permission to borrow \$1.5 billion to fund renovations, expansions, and upgrades at hospitals that treat children. Most of the funding is reserved for the state’s eight private non-profit children’s hospitals (\$1.08 billion) and the five hospitals run through one of the University of California campuses (\$270 million).

This is the third ballot measure since 2004 for children’s hospitals, all developed by the California Children’s Hospital Association. Voters approved the previous two. We hope voters support this one as well.

The issue is that children’s hospitals are dependent on low reimbursement rates from Medi-Cal, California’s public insurance program for lower-income residents. Because of that, the hospitals have trouble keeping current with improvements in medical technology. The Prop. 4 funds, much like the previous measures, would give health care providers the money to make vital upgrades.

California’s network of regional children’s hospitals provide treatment to more than 1 million children annually who are facing life-threatening illness or injury. They’re cared for at these hospitals without regard to their family’s ability to pay.

We recommend a “yes” vote on Proposition 4.