

# Speak Out Now in Healthcare

A workplace newsletter for Highland and Kaiser workers

February 12, 2025

## We Keep Our Patients Safe

Within hours of Trump's inauguration last month, he revoked a federal policy that had previously kept hospitals and other healthcare facilities safe from immigration agent raids. Healthcare workers across the country expressed outrage that their patients could be threatened by immigration agents while trying to access medical care.

As healthcare workers, we are committed to ensuring the safety and privacy of our patients in the face of these threats. This is not just a personal commitment, but a professional one as well. Both nurses and physicians are guided by their professions' code of ethics, which outlines their duty in maintaining patient rights, safety, and privacy.

All medical workers, regardless of their role, are also bound by HIPAA which prohibits the disclosure of any patient's personal information without their consent. Healthcare workers have both the professional duty and the legal right to safeguard their patients' privacy.

Our primary commitment is always to our patients and our communities, regardless of the threats imposed on us. Our patients depend on us, and we are committed to keeping them safe.

## Attacks on the Horizon at Kaiser

Once again an attack on Kaiser workers is on the horizon. At Kaiser Vacaville and Vallejo, as well as other facilities, Kaiser management is cutting security guards and other similar contractor positions, a total of 300 contract employees across 22 hospitals.

Kaiser's excuse is that they are investing in more "highly trained" personnel and more advanced technology to increase staff and patient safety. But these are the same excuses we're hearing from management in all job sectors - cut positions to try and get one worker to do the responsibilities that used to be allocated to multiple people.

These attacks show us that it is not just Trump and his cronies that are attacking the working class, but bosses across all industries, from blue to red states, are putting profits first while workers are left floundering.

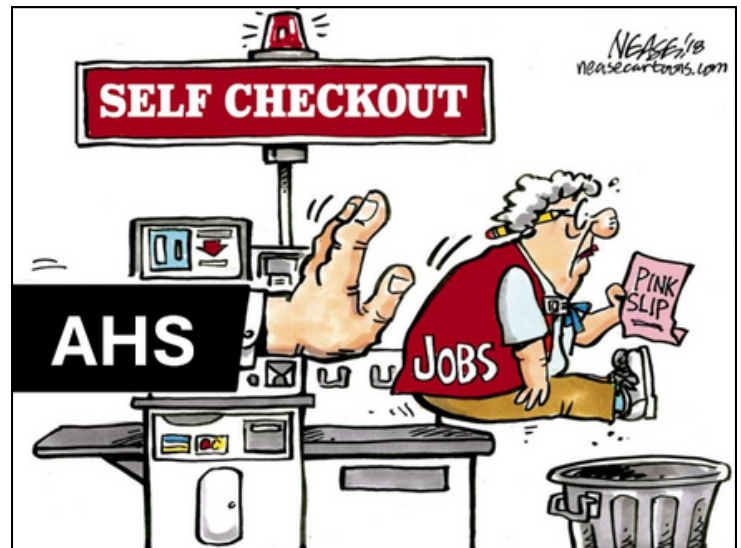
We cannot accept these attacks, we must come together and stand up against these injustices.

## We Want Cashiers, Not Kiosks!

AHS Food and Nutrition management is considering replacing cashiers in our cafeterias at Highland and other facilities with self-serve kiosks. This plan not only poses significant challenges—like the fact that many fresh prepared foods don't scan and barcodes often fail—but it would also eliminate multiple jobs.

Recently, a petition went around demanding management withdraw their proposal. Unsurprisingly, the petition had widespread support. Everyone agrees: we don't want to see our coworkers laid off, especially those who greet us with a friendly smile when we grab a bite to eat. Offering cashiers alternative roles, like cook, simply isn't enough—they deserve to keep their current jobs!

Let's stand together to protect our team, because when one job is at risk, all our jobs are in jeopardy.



Join us at Speak Out's International Women's Day Celebration to celebrate the rich history of working women fighting to change society and their situation within it.

**Saturday, March 8, 2025**

Talk to the Speak Out people handing out this newsletter or reach out on IG if you are interested in coming.



[speakoutsocialists.org](https://speakoutsocialists.org)

IG: @sonsocialists

