

Speak Out Now in Healthcare

A workplace newsletter for Highland and Kaiser workers

June 18th, 2025

Workers Protect Each Other at Highland

Last Friday, workers at Highland rose up in defense of one of their own when a billboard van, operated by a right-wing media group known for doxxing and harassment, parked at the hospital's entrance to target a resident physician. The van smeared the doctor with baseless accusations of being a "violent antisemite" for participating in a pro-Palestinian, anti-genocide protest. But this wasn't just an isolated act — it was part of a coordinated national campaign to intimidate and silence those who dare to speak out for justice.

Highland workers didn't back down. Staff and community members stood shoulder to shoulder, blocking the van's message with sheets, crutches, and banners (see photo below). Their defiance was loud and clear: harassment has no place on our campus, and we will not be silenced.

Disappointingly, the CEO's email response made no mention of how leadership would keep staff safe from these attacks. So the message was clear: it's up to us. Only our collective resistance, our solidarity, will keep us safe.



Highland workers block right-wing billboard van

Join us at Speak Out's next public meeting with investigative journalist Todd Miller

Trump's Program of Border Militarization and Deportations: What is Happening and What Can Be Done?

Sunday, June 22, 4pm
2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley



 speakoutsocialists.org

Trump's Cuts Will Impact Safety of Healthcare Workers

Amidst the chaos and headlines surrounding the Trump administration, one devastating budget cut has quietly flown under the radar. As it stands, the Trump administration has proposed slashing the budget of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) by a staggering 80% next fiscal year

NIOSH has played an important role in protecting healthcare workers since it was founded in 1970. For example, NIOSH tests and certifies N95 respirators which healthcare workers rely on to protect themselves when treating sick patients. NIOSH also helped develop modern safe patient handling programs designed to reduce injury rates among healthcare workers. Gutting NIOSH would undermine the safety programs healthcare workers depend on every day!

Know Your Rights in the Hospital

With the recent ICE raids in LA, and several high profile arrests in Bay Area courthouses, there have been a lots of concerns about where ICE agents might show up next. Some Highland staff have been very vocal about protecting patients and each other if agents were to appear.

During these times it is important to know your rights. Immigration officers cannot enter any private areas of the hospital to conduct searches without a warrant signed by a judge. For both staff and patients, it is a good idea to get an idea ahead of time of which areas of the hospital are considered public and which are considered private. Some healthcare unions have also shared guidance on interacting with ICE.

Staff and patients also have the right to remain silent if approached by ICE, and request to speak only in the presence of a lawyer. Handing red cards to the officers can be a way of enforcing your rights while remaining silent, so make sure to always carry one, be it for yourself or others.

More than anything, solidarity is our best tool. Share information, donate to legal funds, record when you see someone having an interaction with ICE, and fight for your rights and for others to have healthcare without threats and fear.

Have you recently seen, interacted with, or been detained by Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE)?

Call the Alameda County Immigration Legal and Education Partnership (ACILEP) Hotline:
(510) 241-4011

Monday - Friday, 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM

IG: @sonsocialists

