

Speak Out Now at Highland

February 4th, 2026

Highland Closes Weekend Cafeteria Service

In yet another act of cruelty towards Highland Hospital workers and patients, Alameda Health System executives have decided to end weekend cafeteria service at the hospital. The recent layoffs have left hospital workers understaffed and overworked, coming in for up to 16-hour overtime shifts. Patients' families in the ER are waiting for days for their loved ones to get beds assigned in the hospital. The cafeteria allows workers and families a moment to care for themselves, to get a hot meal and to feel like a human again in the stressful hospital environment.

Now, when a family member has been holding vigil at their loved one's bedside for days, nurses can't gently encourage them to go to the cafeteria and get a cup of coffee or a sandwich. Instead, we'll be directing them to vending machines or the gas station at the bottom of the hill.

At least management won't go hungry since they're conveniently here during weekdays when the cafeteria will still be open. But for hospital workers who don't have the luxury of avoiding weekend work, the closed cafeteria is just another insult from bosses who don't understand how hospitals run.

Beilenson Hearing: Wednesday February 25th at 2pm

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors finally announced the scheduling of the state-mandated Beilenson Hearing, after significant pressure from workers, the union, and the community. California state law requires that healthcare facilities provide detailed information to the public and hold a public hearing known as a Beilenson Hearing before reducing services. After making substantial layoffs and cuts to services throughout AHS, this hearing is an essential forum for public feedback.

The Beilenson Hearing is tentatively scheduled for February 25th at 2pm. Workers, patients, and everyone in the community is encouraged to attend and share comments on how cuts to our public healthcare infrastructure would affect them. We are still waiting for a location to be announced, but until then, save the date and prepare your comment!

**Rally outside
Highland
Hospital**

**February 11th @
11:30am-12:30pm**

**Come out and
fight the layoffs!**

Anyone: what's it like
working at Highland
right now?

Everyone working at
Highland right now:



AHS Workers Honor Those Murdered by ICE

Last Monday, January 26th, workers and community members gathered outside of Highland to commemorate Alex Pretti, an ICU nurse who was killed in the streets of Minneapolis by ICE agents. In only a day, AHS workers organized a program, created signs, wrote press releases, and contacted news organizations in order to make the vigil happen. At least 3 news sites covered this worker-organized event.

Attendees brought flowers, held candles, sang songs, and listened to poetry. They gathered in community to remember those whose lives have been taken by ICE, and to remember that we are not alone in this fight to keep each other safe.

In one speech, a Highland worker made the connection that these layoffs at AHS are directly related to the bloated budgets of government agencies like ICE. While money is being stripped from public services, it is being deposited into violent government organizations that are tearing families apart and terrorizing entire communities.

The fight to save our hospitals and public healthcare access is the same fight to stop ICE terror and keep our immigrant neighbors safe.

County Supervisors Call Out AHS Leadership

Workers packed the Board of Supervisors meeting last week to tell county officials about the absurdity of AHS's proposed layoff plan. Yet again, workers and the community spoke of the importance of AHS services, and the detrimental impacts of cutting staff.

However, unlike the Board of Trustees meetings of the past, where board members complained of workers' testimonies as "gripes," the Supervisors seemed to actually take workers' concerns seriously. Whether lip service or not, they called James Jackson and the executive team out for their failure to ask the county for help before throwing workers under the bus (though not in those words). They stated that they want to work with AHS to protect jobs and ensure that these vital services stay open.

Regardless of the intentions of the individual supervisors at this meeting, it will be up to AHS workers ourselves to be sure they stay true to their words. We must make it clear that the cost of cutting staff and closing down facilities is more than our community can afford. Messing with the workers of AHS is messing with the entire community.

So show up in any way you can. Write and share petitions. Post flyers about upcoming actions in your neighborhood and kids' schools. Ask neighbors and friends to speak up at future meetings. Talk to coworkers about what actions they are ready to take. This is a fight for our livelihoods and the lives of our community!



 **speakoutsocialists.org**

IG: @sonsocialists

SPEAK OUT TO SAVE YOUR HEALTHCARE!

Your voice can save your medical services!

*List of all department closures and reductions:

- Fairmont Outpatient Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Audiology, Behavioral Therapies, Cafeteria
- Highland Hospital: Ambulatory Plastic Surgery, Health Advocates, Palliative Care, Complex Care Program



SAVE THE DATE

Public Beilenson
Hearing

February 25th @ 2pm

Location/Final Time TBA



**Scan the QR code to get
involved and get updates
about upcoming actions**