

Speak Out Now at Highland

February 18th, 2026

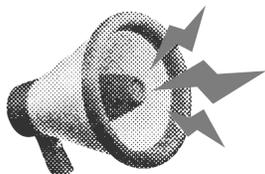
AHS Publishes List of Proposed Closures

As required by state law, AHS executives published a list of the proposed closures and elimination of services they are planning in the ongoing layoffs. This 59-page document includes the elimination of outpatient behavioral health services, the closure of many other departments, and a reduction in services throughout AHS. The document repeatedly insults essential healthcare workers by referring to the elimination of their positions as "rightsizing" instead of calling it what it is: short-staffing and a danger to patient care.

In addition, state law requires that healthcare executives provide a plan for where patients can seek care after the services they depend on are eliminated. The list makes it clear that there is no viable plan for these patients once their services are cut. For example, the elimination of the Health Advocates program, which assists 3,300 patients a year to secure food and housing resources, is to be replaced by telling patients to look up resources online. People who are unhoused and being discharged from the hospital need real help navigating the complex and overburdened web of social services, not handed a website address as they're kicked out the door!

Over 50 times throughout this document, AHS executives state that the layoffs will not affect patient care because the work will be "absorbed" by remaining workers. So get ready to be even more overworked and short-staffed, because that is the official, published plan.

The list of closures is available on the AHS website, along with a link to submit a public comment. Make your voice heard and attend the Beilenson Hearing where you can speak to the county supervisors about what these cuts mean to you!



Come Speak!

Public Beilenson Hearing
Wed. February 25th @ 3pm
1221 Oak St
5th Floor, Room 512
Oakland, CA

Come Rally!

Tues. February 24th
12:30-1:00pm
In front of Highland

Care for healthcare
workers, NOT layoffs!



Short Staffing in the Highland Kitchen

The Highland inpatient kitchen has been hit hard by layoffs. On some days, more than half of shifts are open because these positions were laid off. Many kitchen workers have been working overtime and some other non-foodservice workers have been stepping in to fill gaps, but this is an unsustainable solution.

It's not uncommon for orders to get backed up, and for meals to come late. Or for there to be no one staffed to pass trays to rooms. This is a hospital, not a hotel - patients rely on the food we serve them.

Late meals and an inability to order customized meals also lowers patient satisfaction scores. But it's clear AHS executives weren't thinking about patients when making these cuts.

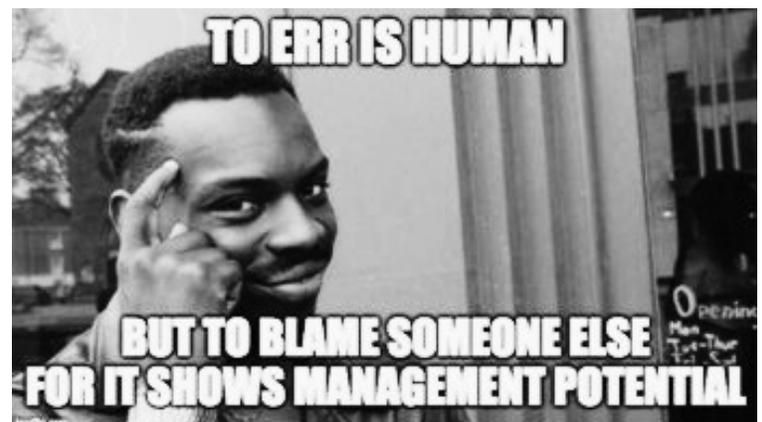
Don't Play the Blame Game

Blaming other workers when we are short staffed is taking a page out of management's playbook. Management knows the number of people expected to call off - in fact they love to show us their charts on how many people call in sick so they can try to get us to point the finger at each other when we are short staffed. But if the bosses are keeping such good data, why don't they know how to staff us appropriately to account for call outs?

Sick days are legally protected by the state of California - even SANs are mandated to get a minimum number of hours for calling out sick. Plus what makes workers more likely to get sick? When they are understaffed and overworked!

Now with layoffs, staffing shortages are getting even worse. Managers expect those of us who are left to pick up extra shifts and take more overtime, but that leaves us more likely to exhaust ourselves and burn out... leading to more sickness and call outs.

So next time someone calls out sick and your department is short staffed, remember that sick days are a right, but safe staffing is a responsibility that the bosses are failing to meet.



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Speak Out Now

February 16, 2026

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Their Attacks are Just Beginning – But Our Fightback is Too!

This week, the Trump administration announced that the ICE surge in Minneapolis is ending, and that their nearly 3,000 federal agents who have spent the past two months terrorizing the Minneapolis region are being sent back to their home bases or other cities.

The fact that ICE is pulling out of Minneapolis in this way is a victory. The only reason they are doing this is because of the resistance they've been met with in Minneapolis and across the country. While Democratic Party politicians try to make headlines for criticizing Trump and ICE, it was ordinary people and not the Democrats who were the decisive force that confronted ICE head-on.

In response to the ICE terror – especially after federal agents murdered both Rene Good and Alex Pretti on video – organizing in the Minneapolis and across the country swelled. People were able to find a place to put all of their anger. It was the two Fridays of mass mobilizations under the banner “No Work, No School, No Shopping” that brought out tens of thousands of people in Minneapolis. It has been the organizing in neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools in Minneapolis to patrol for ICE and mobilize in large numbers wherever ICE showed up. In several neighborhoods in the Minneapolis region, neighbors set up barricades to keep ICE out and to patrol everyone who went in and out of their neighborhoods. Minneapolis police have been sent out to break up these barricades, but often neighbors have just rebuilt them after the police leave. For days, there have been regular protests in front of the Whipple Federal Building outside Minneapolis.

Because organizers in Minneapolis refused to back down and continued building their numbers – sparking similar actions across the state and country – the Trump administration has now decided to scale back its surge in the Minneapolis area. This can be celebrated and is a glimpse of the power we have when we rely on our own forces and defend ourselves.

But even though this surge in Minneapolis is ending for now, we can't believe that there has been any real change in the Trump administration's priorities. They want to appear as if they are scaling back, but in fact, they are preparing for intensified attacks on immigrants and the rest of the population. In fact, the director of ICE, Todd Lyons, told

Congress this week during testimony that ICE “is only getting started.”

As ICE reduces their surge in Minnesota, they are spending over \$38 billion to acquire warehouses across the country to expand their detention center capacity. They have already acquired about 25 warehouses. Most of the buildings can hold about 1,500 people, and some can hold as many as 10,000. Currently there are about 73,000 people in detention centers in the U.S., up from about 40,000 when Trump began his second term.

The conditions inside these facilities are meant to torture people. Already over 30 people have died in these horrible conditions. There has been a measles outbreak in a facility in Texas. And ICE has been sending all pregnant minors they abduct to a horrific facility in Texas, where they have no access to medical care or abortion services. Some are rape victims as young as 13. Their attacks on immigrants and many citizens have not stopped, and they continue to hire more and more agents. Meanwhile, the money to fund this ICE terrorism has been paid for by massive cuts to our healthcare, education, and other social services. So now is not the time to slow down, but to increase our efforts to organize our forces even more.

The people of Minneapolis have shown us what needs to be done. We cannot stand up to all of their attacks alone. We can't rely on the Democrats to do anything. We cannot wait around for elections that won't protect us. The administration is attacking the majority of us all at once. We see struggles of teachers and students for more funding for their schools. And we see health care workers fighting for better working conditions for themselves and their patients who are facing record health care costs. We see attacks on the unhoused population in every major city. We see access to reproductive health care disappearing across the country. We see our voting rights under attack.

We need to follow what Minneapolis has showed us. We cannot fight all of these battles alone, one by one. Our power depends on us coming together, fighting all these battles at the same time, like a closed fist. We may be on our own, but we are not outnumbered. Together we can fight not just their attacks, not just the Trump administration, not just the billionaires, but their whole system of exploitation.