

Speak Out Now at Highland

February 25th, 2026

Rehab Workers Show the Way

Many SEIU therapists in the rehab department were originally slated to be laid off. However, AHS rescinded some of these layoffs a couple weeks ago. You may have seen PTs, OTs, and SLPs speaking up at the Board of Trustees meetings and at the Board of Supervisors meeting. Speaking out has been incredibly important, but they've also done a lot more to save their jobs.

They contacted doctors to speak up for them and support them. The more people, especially in well respected positions in the hospital hierarchy, you can get to speak on your behalf, the harder it is for decision-makers to ignore the real impact of their cuts.

At Fairmont, rehab workers posted flyers educating others about the cuts and provided ways for people to get involved and fight the layoffs, including coming to board meetings to have their voices heard. They relied heavily on interdepartmental collaboration with workers still affected at Intensive Outpatient Psych (IOP), contacting external community clinics like Tiburcio Vasquez, Asian Health Services, and La Clínica to sound the alarm. They understood that uniting our shared struggles only makes us stronger.

Rehab workers also helped put together a simple script for people to use when calling the Board of Supervisors. That way, coworkers, patients, and community members didn't have to start from scratch when contacting elected officials – they had clear talking points about why rehab (or other) services needed to be protected. They also shared Supervisor phone numbers, making it quick and easy for people to reach out.

Sometimes our role is to remove the barriers and make it as easy as possible for others to take action. When we do that, more people step up, and this solidarity makes all the difference.

Workers Lead the Fight Against Layoffs

At AHS, workers are standing up and organizing to fight against the ongoing layoffs. We are the ones who show up to work every day and take care of patients, and we know first-hand how closing clinics, eliminating services, and short-staffing affects people's lives. AHS executives and board members are sitting in their offices moving numbers around on a computer screen. Unless we speak up, they will keep cutting services and endangering our patients.

It's up to us, the workers, to decide how we fight back against these layoffs! We know what makes a hospital run, and we have the power to speak up for our patients. Whether that be organizing with co-workers, designing flyers, speaking at board meetings, or sharing information with the community, we all have roles to play in this struggle to protect our jobs and our patients. This is our fight and it's up to us to stop these cuts!

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We're Stronger When We're In the Room

Our unions bargain *for* us at the bargaining table when they meet with management. They typically update us after each session, letting us know briefly what was discussed, what AHS has moved on, and where more pressure is needed. All important things.

But what if our unions bargained *with* us at the bargaining table? In some unions, they practice what is called "open bargaining." This means all union workers get to have a seat at the table and listen in when negotiations take place.

This way, instead of being told by the union how disrespectful management is being or what decisions have been made, workers can see for themselves. Workers also have a better chance at intimidating management, for we can easily outnumber AHS officials in a room.

Ideally, the union and workers should take time after bargaining to review what happened, and discuss what decisions should be made and what proposals should be presented at the next session.

Open bargaining also helps build trust between unions and union members. You often hear workers say that the union didn't fight hard enough for them - this is a less common complaint when workers are at the bargaining table themselves.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT

**SUNDAY,
MARCH 8TH
@ 11:30AM**

Ask your Speak Out person for more information and to get tickets to attend!

IG: @sonsocialists





Speak Out Now

February 23, 2026

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Billionaires Create the Chaos. We Can Stop It!

Everywhere we look, the U.S. government and the billionaires they serve are attacking us day after day. They are slashing budgets and cutting our social safety nets, working to replace jobs with AI and robots, cutting regulations to dig for and use more climate-destroying fossil fuels, and laying siege to cities with armed, masked ICE thugs who are terrorizing our streets and threatening all of us, not just those without documentation.

All the while, the price of basic goods – housing, energy, food, healthcare and more – are rising through the roof with no end in sight.

Trump is using tariffs to tax and threaten countries who he deems as competition or potential competition to the U.S. economy, virtually every country in the world. But tariffs hurt regular people's pockets. Consumers end up paying the cost of the increased tariffs so that businesses can keep their profits. And any strain to companies often leads to increasing unemployment of workers around the world.

So, some may have felt hope when even the far-right Supreme Court struck down most of Trump's tariffs as unconstitutional. But this is no solution to regular working people's economic woes. Trump used a legal work-around to reinstate a global 10% tariff on the same day as the Supreme Court decision. Then he raised it to 15% the very next day. Regardless, the billionaires will continue to find ways to make us pay for their profits.

To maintain order abroad and at home, they are funneling money into military actions and into ICE. The U.S. government is building up significant air and naval military presence in the Middle East, threatening Iran with a regime change that is both meant to stabilize the economy in the region for U.S. benefit, and also co-opt and subdue uprisings and dissent with a flex of force.

Meanwhile, Trump initiated his "Board of Peace" (where Trump designated himself as chairman for life), meeting with billionaires and political leaders to discuss their vision for how to bulldoze and "rebuild" Gaza, without even pretending to include Palestinian representation.

Trump and his pals want to control Iran, Venezuela, Greenland, Cuba, Palestine, and more to continue manipulating the global economy for their benefit.

In the U.S., ICE and Homeland Security in general are receiving bloated budgets to keep us in check. Although the government is reducing its forces in Minneapolis because of the fightback of people there, ICE has not disappeared and continues to terrorize people across the U.S. And they are staging increases in ICE presence in other cities around the country.

The chaos of the attacks, on top of the already absurd conditions we work and live under, can feel impossible to face. But this is exactly what they want – to overwhelm us with attacks and make us feel hopeless. They are relying on us not responding so that they can keep playing some workers off against others, squeezing more and more out of all of us.

But Minneapolis showed us a glimpse of how we can stop them. People went into the streets to face down ICE; and many did that instead of going to work. That is a step in the right direction.

Through the haze of chaos, fear, and attacks we can see the clear source of our problems. It is not just Trump and his administration; it is the system of capitalism that he defends. Working people can organize, strike, and stop the system in its tracks. That is our superpower. If that seems far-fetched, we can start creating emergency response networks and other organizing in our communities to defend ourselves and our neighbors. That begins with us – maybe just a few individuals at first. But it can snowball, as it did in Minneapolis.

Some people are looking towards the No Kings Day protest on March 28 and May Day on May 1 as opportunities to show that we will not accept what Trump is doing. Often, such nationally organized events point towards voting for the Democratic Party as the solution to Trump's administration. But ultimately, we can see that neither of the established parties will solve the vast problems that we face. Most Democratic Party politicians go out of their way to say they support capitalism. In fact, both parties support this system that is all about squeezing more profits from us. Strikes and other actions we're seeing around the country point to the real liberators we can look to – ourselves.