

# Speak Out Now in Healthcare

A workplace newsletter for Highland and Kaiser workers

March 26th, 2025

## Update: Highland Cafeteria Workers

Despite over 3000 petition signatures and nearly 20 people speaking in support of our cashiers at the latest board meeting, management has decided to go through with the layoffs of these vital workers.

Clearly no amount of logic, reason, or morality will sway management or hospital administrators to change their minds. The workers of Highland already know what a dumb decision replacing our cashiers with kiosks is, the bosses will find out soon.

## Safety Issues But No Changes

Patients come to the hospital expecting to be safe from harm. So when a patient suffers from an avoidable accident or death while hospitalized, healthcare workers want to make sure that changes are put in place so it can't happen again. Serious incidents are reported to JCAHO, also known as The Joint Commission, which is the accrediting agency for hospitals.

When JCAHO comes to survey a hospital after a sentinel event, do we as healthcare workers get to have input on what changes would help avoid future incidents? Sadly, no, instead we just get harassed for having our water bottles at the nurses' station.

Healthcare workers want to see real changes to our workplace, such as better staffing and more CNAs. JCAHO just leaves us with a "corrective action plan" that always consists of more charting and paperwork, taking us farther from our patients' sides and leaving them even more vulnerable to harm. Healthcare workers want to keep our patients safe, but we need the right tools, not just endless charting!

## Undocumented and Avoiding Healthcare

It is becoming increasingly clear that more undocumented people in the Bay Area (and across the nation) are avoiding healthcare out of fear that they will have to share their immigration status to receive care, and then could be deported. People are refusing to seek emergency care after experiencing serious accidents. Patients are less likely to attend routine medical check ups, which can then lead to long-term health complications.

Now, under the new Trump administration, undocumented immigrants are fearing deportation due to increased reports of both undocumented and documented persons being deported across the country. Hospitals, such as Highland Hospital, have passed sanctuary resolutions for the undocumented, but people outside of hospital facilities are unaware of these resolutions, or are unsure that these resolutions can protect them in these uncertain times.

In the United States, it is not just non-citizens who are unable to access the healthcare system. This is wrong. Healthcare is a human right that should be accessible to all people no matter their immigration status, race, or socioeconomic class.

## Kaiser: National Expansion = Record Profits

Last month, Kaiser announced their 2024 financial results, including \$12.9 billion dollars in profits! This was a 300% increase in their profits compared to 2023. More than half of these new profits were from new healthcare facilities across the country that Kaiser bought up in the last year.

Last year, Kaiser created a subsidiary called Risant Health which acquired existing healthcare organizations operating in Pennsylvania (Geisinger Health) and North Carolina (Cone Health). Part of what generates these profits are things like short-staffing, where more services are billed to patients and insurance with as few workers as possible.

Kaiser's upper management have their sights set on national expansion and the increased profits that can come from it, but what about the experiences of workers and patients?

Speak Out Socialists Public Meeting

Trump's Assault on the Planet is an Assault on Us!

Sunday, April 13

Join us at our next public meeting!  
Sun. April 13, 4pm  
2727 California Street, Berkeley



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

IG: @sonsocialists

