

Speak Out Now in Healthcare

A workplace newsletter for Highland and Kaiser workers

July 16th, 2025

ICE: Hands Off Our Patients

Last week, Highland workers organized an in-person know your rights training for how to respond to ICE if they show up to the hospital. Lawyers taught workers a lot over their lunch break, here are some key takeaways:

- * Delay any agents from entering or obtaining patient information by asking them to sit in a non-patient care area while you call for the hospital legal team, who can determine if they have a legitimate warrant. Don't take agent's word for it! They are legally allowed to lie.

- * HIPAA protects patient privacy - don't give out any personal information to police or agents. Again, the hospital's legal team can decide if agents have a legal right to this information.

- * Document any interactions with ICE including names and badge numbers. Document the interaction (date, time, location, what happened) and take pictures of agents if you can, while avoiding pictures of any patients.

WE keep us and our patients safe!

Stand Up, Fight Back

The federal government just passed a big bill with a proposal to cut funding to treat patients on Medi-Cal.

In the wake of the bill's passing, there has been a lot of uncertainty among some hospital workers and our patients about potential impacts at Kaiser hospitals. Even before this bill passed, management was already pushing for hiring freezes and reorganizing departments to cut costs, services, and staff.

Last week in response to these recent attacks, some workers and unions at Kaiser hospital and beyond started coming together to figure out a response to these potential cuts. Last Tuesday, SEIU hosted a mass call to its members, encouraging people to come out to different rallies on July 17th ("Good Trouble" Lives On National Day of Action) and July 26th (Families First Day of Action).

Among many uncertainties, one thing is clear - we can't stand idly by while these cuts affect our jobs and our patients. An effective response will take all of us coming together, inside and outside the hospital, to push back and demand decent staffing levels and continued services for our patients.

It's up to us to fight for the future we want!

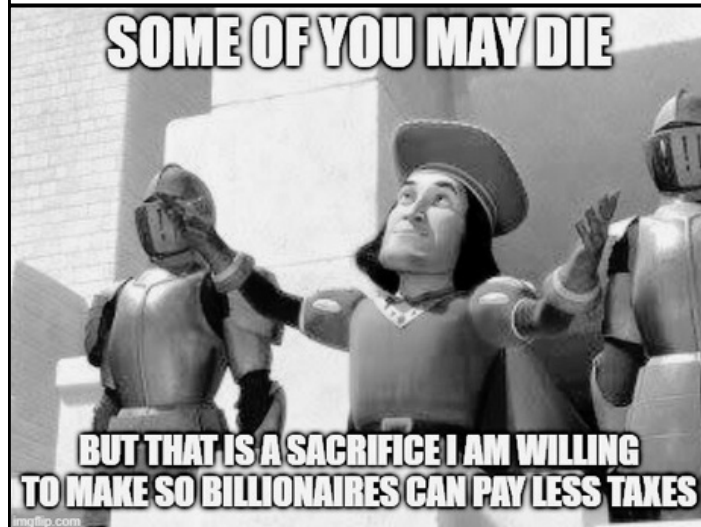
Trump's Big Bill Attacks Public Health

Trump signed his Big Ugly Bill into law this month, jeopardizing the health of people right here in the Bay Area through massive cuts to Medi-Cal and other healthcare funding programs.

Within the next few years, Alameda Health System, the county's public health system, is expected to lose over \$100 million every year in critical federal funding. This number isn't just a line on a budget sheet- it is a direct threat to the health of our community. Longer wait times due to budget cuts are more than an inconvenience. People's mobility declines while they wait for physical therapy, their tumors grow while they wait for cancer screening, and their mental health suffers while they wait for support.

As healthcare workers, we know that we will see the devastating effects of these cuts in the well-being of our patients and neighbors. We refuse to stand by while our tax dollars are diverted away from the health of our community and into the pockets of billionaires. We healthcare workers are committed to speaking up and standing together to support public health!

The government be like..



The Speak Out Healthcare Newsletter will be on a short break and will return on the week of August 18th.

Another update: Speak Out's annual BBQ will be on Sunday, Sept 7. Talk to us for more information!



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