

Speak Out Now at Highland

July 29th, 2026

More Wasteful Spending at AHS

All year, AHS executives told us we were out of money, and threatened cuts and layoffs. But workers noticed wasteful spending going on throughout the hospital system. Instead of being careful with our limited funds, AHS was spending money on new signs and advertising.

Workers are sharing even more ways AHS wastes money that it should be spending on patient care. For example, why do we have so many managers in our departments? These are expensive positions using money that could go to saving the jobs of workers who actually work to take care of patients and the hospital.

Some of these managers aren't even actual employees invested in making their departments better, but just travel managers passing through on their way to their next job. What a waste of money!

Highland Workers Support Each Other

Our Highland community is mourning the loss of several coworkers. The QR codes below connect directly to fundraisers for their families.

Mery was a generous person, who worked in the EVS department. She was tragically killed in a car accident while driving home from work. The Ramirez family is grateful for any support.



Allan put a smile on many of our faces while passing through the halls of Highland. After a lengthy hospital stay, he passed away. Donations will help support his family and ease the financial burdens they now face.



Soraya worked as a nurse in the recovery room, and helped fight for her coworkers as a shop steward. Help support her daughter, who is mourning the tragic and sudden loss of her mother.



SAVE THE DATE!

SPEAK OUT SOCIALISTS



Tickets \$5 in advance only, kids under 10 free
Potluck style- bring a dish!

Join us for:

- Good food
- Political discussions
- Kids' area
- Arts & crafts
- Games & sports
- and more!

Sun, Sep 20 • 12-4:30PM • San Leandro



 speakoutsocialists.org

Who Needs Food Anyway?

Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) at Highland, like many departments right now, is struggling to meet the needs of patients and families.

FNS is so short staffed they don't always have enough workers to keep the cafeteria open. The cafeteria plans to remain closed on weekends for the foreseeable future, and has at times had to close early during the week. Where else are family members supposed to buy food when their loved ones are at Highland? (Side note: you can usually buy food on Mondays from a family run spot, located outside the front entrance.)

Sometimes no one is available to wash dishes, meaning patients get their meals served in takeout containers. This causes food to cool off by the time it comes to patient rooms, and reduces patient's dignity. Who wants their food served on soggy paper?

Rochester Nurses Fight With Nonunion Coworkers and Win!

In Rochester, New York, nurses stood in solidarity with their non-unionized coworkers and showed us all once again what good organizers know to be true: united we win.

At Highland, workers are mostly united under SEIU. This gives workers a huge advantage in a contract fight. However, workers are under threat in different ways all the time: whether it's a threat of job and budget cuts, a lethal virus that requires additional PPE, or a push to keep AI or ICE out of our hospitals.

Last November, in Rochester, deep cuts were announced to employee health benefits. In the span of days, union and non-union workers came together to build a campaign that crossed job titles and worksites, forced the boss to backpedal, and inspired a wave of new organizing.

When we take the time to build relationships and stand united across departments, union and non-unionized workers can really push back and make change.

HOSPITAL STAFF SHORTAGES ARE GETTING OUT OF HAND.



IG: [@sonsocialists](https://www.instagram.com/sonsocialists)





Speak Out Now

July 27, 2026

@sonsocialists

speakoutsocialists.org

mail@speakoutsocialists.org

(510) 343-9105

The Enormous Costs of the US War on Iran Continue to Grow

The U.S. claims their unjustified war of destruction on Iran is pausing in order to negotiate new terms of a settlement. But how is anyone supposed to believe anything the U.S. administration says? They started their war on Iran back in February in the middle of negotiations. And this recent bombing of the last two weeks started when they claimed to reach a new settlement. Their announcements mean nothing!

Instead of winding down, this war has escalated in the last two weeks. U.S. forces have bombed Iran night after night, openly targeting civilian infrastructure, bombing roads, bridges, power plants, a desalinization plant for drinking water, and many more sites, killing some 6,000 people in Iran since February, mostly civilians. Iranian forces have struck several U.S. military bases, killing at least 18, including four more in the last two weeks, and injuring many more U.S. soldiers.

The threats coming from the Trump administration are blatant violations of international law. Trump has threatened that every time Iran fires at a ship in the Strait of Hormuz, the U.S. will destroy one bridge or one power plant — including bridges and power plants inside Tehran, a city of nine million. Trump has also threatened a new attack that is bigger than anything the U.S. has ever done. Trump makes these blatant threats, which would lead to the death of thousands of innocent civilians, live on social media for all to see.

Now the fighting has spread further in the region. The Houthis, an ally of the Iranian regime that control the western part of Yemen, have now declared a naval blockade in the Red Sea. They are doing this because Saudi Arabia, one of the U.S.'s main allies in the region, ships much of their oil and other goods through the Red Sea. The Houthis have struck Saudi oil tankers and a refinery with missiles and drones. Tankers are now turning around before they reach it. So, in addition to the Strait of Hormuz, a second chokepoint in the global oil market is being closed off, sending global prices soaring even further.

Iran and the Houthis, know they cannot match the scale of the U.S. military, the largest military power in world history. But the one real weapon to emerge from this war for Iran has been their ability to disrupt some of the world's major oil arteries. So, they are unlikely to surrender the Strait of Hormuz because it is now the main leverage

they have in negotiations. The U.S. on the other hand is totally unwilling to accept a world where their rivals can disrupt oil flows in the Middle East. So now, by the U.S. starting this war, they have created a new stand off that didn't exist before: a standoff for control of the Strait of Hormuz, and now possibly the Red Sea as well.

While the U.S. has claimed that one of their goals in bombing Iran was to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, the Trump administration just announced a multi-billion-dollar agreement with Saudi Arabia to develop a nuclear program — one that opens a path to develop nuclear weapons. The U.S. attacks on Iran were clearly never really about nuclear weapons. The issue was always about how the U.S. would try to dominate the Middle East, and dictate its interests to other nations in the region. Now it seems a nuclear-armed Saudi Arabia could be part of that agenda.

As the war on Iran has escalated, Israel has continued its genocidal takeover of Gaza with full U.S. backing. Last October, under the so-called "ceasefire," Israel agreed to pull back all of their forces to a designated "yellow line," which basically split the Gaza Strip down the middle. Instead they have pushed past that line and have completely destroyed and displaced the population in 65% of Gaza, and they are continuing to push further. Claims of ceasefire mean nothing to Israel either.

And to pay for all of this death and destruction, the Trump administration has already admitted to spending over \$37.5 billion on their war with Iran. But U.S. analysts estimate the actual costs could be as high as \$132 billion. On top of this, while they claim to be working towards a ceasefire with Iran, they just asked for an additional \$67 billion for their war, and a \$1.5 trillion military budget for next year, the largest request ever. This war money doesn't just appear from nowhere, but is being taken away from funding the services we rely on, like education, food assistance, public health and more.

This is the reality of their system — wars of chaos, death, and destruction. In their competition to dominate the globe, those who rule this society are a threat to all of us. The enormous costs from this war have already taken a toll on working people in the Middle East, and all over the world. It would cost a lot less to get rid of their whole system of exploitation and domination for good.