

Speak Out Now at Highland August 12th, 2026

\$250 Million for California's Public Hospitals is NOT ENOUGH!

In 2025 Trump signed a spending bill that made \$1 trillion in cuts over 10 years to Medicaid. Highland and other public safety-net hospitals were especially hard hit across the state. Without help, these cuts could result in millions of low-income Californians losing healthcare.

Highland and other public hospitals provide healthcare for all. Only 8% of California hospitals are public, but serve over 1 in 3 of those on Medi-Cal or without insurance. These cuts have forced state legislators to try and fill the funding gaps. They have announced that \$250 million is now going to help salvage California's public hospital system.

But in a world of now trillionaires, \$250 million is just a drop in the bucket. It is estimated that filling the funding gap from the federal government would require billions of dollars.

The disastrous state of our public health system is another tragic example of how the failures of the capitalist system cannot be fixed from within, with a patchwork of reforms and funding measures. The poor, the uninsured, and workers of the world deserve a new world order.

AHS Has a New Staffing Strategy: Paying People to Leave

AHS is offering two new programs to encourage employees to leave: a voluntary resignation program and an incentivized retirement program.

Both offer additional severance packages of up to 17 weeks for employees who leave the organization. If you work full time and are 61 or older you can retire early to get about four months of pay and two months of COBRA. If you are not eligible to retire, you can still choose to quit, receiving more severance the longer you've worked at AHS, as well as three months of COBRA.

Both programs show a clear strategy: AHS is trying to get rid of its workers. It's no mistake that the package is larger the longer you've worked at AHS - this way management incentivizes higher paid workers who have more seniority to leave. Then they'll either close those positions for good, or hire newer workers who they can pay less.

Workers deserve to be able to retire comfortably or switch employers when they aren't being treated well or adequately compensated. But unless you already have another job lined up or were planning on retiring in the next couple of months, getting only four months of pay after working for 20+ years is a bit insulting.

Management Must Follow Our Contract!

Competencies are due for some this month, which means management is once again trying to impose their deadlines while ignoring our contract.

In 2024, we won the right to complete our mandatory competencies during our regularly scheduled shifts, with the agreement that all other work duties would be removed for the time it takes to complete the trainings. That just makes sense, we shouldn't have to come in extra days, and we can't do two jobs at once, especially with how short-staffed and overloaded we are.

Management's deadlines are meaningless when they don't follow the rules. They need to respect our time and respect the contract we bargained for!

AHS MANAGEMENT:



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

IG: @sonsocialists





Speak Out Now

August 10, 2026

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Their System Pours More Gas on a World on Fire

Our world is burning, and those who rule this society are doing nothing but pouring gas on the fire. Large parts of Canada, the United States, and Europe are being impacted by deadly wildfires.

In Canada, more than 7.4 million acres have burned, which is nearly the same size as the entire state of Maryland. Hundreds of fires have been burning out of control from the northwest part of the country to northern Ontario, north of Toronto.

In the U.S., more than six million acres have burned so far this year, roughly 60 to 70 percent more than the ten-year average, with national fire agencies at their highest possible alert level. Cities such as New York and Philadelphia have had some of the worst air quality in the world this Summer from smoke traveling down from Canada. Oregon has broken its all-time record for most acres burned in a year with two months of the fire season still left. In Washington state, fires tore through neighborhoods on the edge of the city of Spokane in the first days of August, destroying hundreds of homes and driving tens of thousands of people out.

In Europe, more land has burned by the start of August than last summer. Spain is currently experiencing the largest wildfire in its history. In France, a single fire in the Gironde region forced more than two hundred thousand people to evacuate their homes. In Greece, two firefighters died when their helicopters collided while fighting a fire near Athens. Working people are being evacuated and having their homes and livelihoods destroyed, while the smoke from all of it settles over cities a thousand miles away and into everyone's lungs.

These fires are not just based on bad luck. Hotter air, longer droughts, drier soil, and forests primed to burn are the direct product of the carbon emissions released into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuel energy sources. Last year the world passed the 1.5 degree Celsius average temperature threshold that scientists warned for decades would cause irreversible climate damage. This is what the other side of that line looks like, and it will only intensify. And faced with this crisis, what are the rulers of this system doing about it? Pouring more gas on the fire!

Environmental destruction and ever-increasing greenhouse gas emissions have always been a permanent feature of capitalism. Just since 1990 alone, over 50% of all

greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have been released. And now this is going to accelerate further as energy demand increases globally to fuel the growth of artificial intelligence. Data center electricity demand in the U.S. has nearly doubled in three years. Globally, the demand from these facilities is projected to more than double again by the end of the decade. To meet this demand, renewable energy sources such as solar power are growing, but the difference is being made up by fossil fuel sources such as coal and gas. The message is clear: it is their system that is destroying the planet and causing these disasters, and they won't do anything about it.

Meanwhile, workers around the world are suffering the consequences. Climate destruction is now the leading cause of mass displacement, producing about 40 million migrants and refugees per year, more than from all the wars around the world. It is the poor and working class that is impacted the most from fires, heat and extreme weather events. Many workers, from construction and agriculture to delivery and transportation have to go to work in conditions of extreme heat or dangerous smoke, often without air conditioning or respirators. The poor can rarely afford air conditioning or air filtration devices. Since 2006, studies have shown that over 24,000 people have died each year in the U.S. from the effects of prolonged exposure to wildfire smoke.

And when these climate disasters strike, this system has nothing to offer but more misery. The ruling class isn't even capable of using the resources of capitalism to handle the fires. They build more bombs and weapons of war than they do water planes for fighting fires. Insurance companies have stopped offering home insurance in areas of fire danger because they can't profit. Fire departments and disaster relief funds are getting cut while military spending hits record highs.

This is what capitalism has to offer. A handful of the richest corporations on Earth are making these decisions in their own boardrooms, and the rest of us are living with the results — a hotter planet that burns more every year and puts all of humanity at risk. Their whole system of exploitation and profit is making all of this worse, and they will not walk away from the trillions of dollars invested in continued fossil fuel production. These criminals cannot be in charge of our future. It comes down to this: It's our lives or their profits.