

# Speak Out Now in Healthcare

A workplace newsletter for Highland and Kaiser workers

August 14th, 2024

## Missing Supplies Risk Patients' Lives

When lives are at stake, every second counts as hospital staff reach for supplies they need to provide patient care. Nurses and other staff depend on supply rooms being well-stocked so they can focus on their patients, instead of wasting time hunting down supplies. So what could possibly be management's excuse for leaving our supply rooms full of empty bins?

Managers tell us they have to keep our stock levels low, or even hide supplies locked in their offices, because they claim physicians and staff from other departments "steal" our supplies. Each floor has its own budget for even basic supplies like pillows, and management doesn't want us sharing our resources with other floors.

But who is left without due to this hoarding and artificial scarcity? Our same patients, just on different floors! Patients are left in need, and staff are left scrambling to find a pillow to put under their patient's head.

Once again management fails to meet even their most basic responsibility to keep the supplies we need accessible so that we can do our jobs.

## Kaiser: Morning Confusion

Last Wednesday Kaiser Oakland implemented a new policy. Now, before 8am, workers have to enter the hospital for a shift by badging in to the main entrance on MacArthur, as opposed to the usual normal door around the corner.

The stated reason for this policy was for "worker safety" but nothing beyond that was really explained.

Kaiser management had notified almost no one about the change in policy. As a result, this caused confusion for many workers, who went to the normal entrance and couldn't get in because it was locked.

It also put security guards in a tough position. A few workers took out their frustrations about the change of doors on the security guards, who were just trying to do their jobs, and let people know the correct door to badge in and enter the facility.

How hard would it have been for management to send out an email?

Join us at our next event...

**Our Society in Crisis: We Don't Have to Accept This!**

Friday, August 16th @ 7:00pm PST

2727 California St. Berkeley, CA



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

## Criminalizing Mask Wearing Sets Dangerous Precedent as COVID Rises

Last week legislators in Nassau County, New York approved a bill banning masks in public spaces, saying "concealing your identity" by wearing a mask is a misdemeanor offense punishable by up to a year of jail time and a \$1,000 fine.

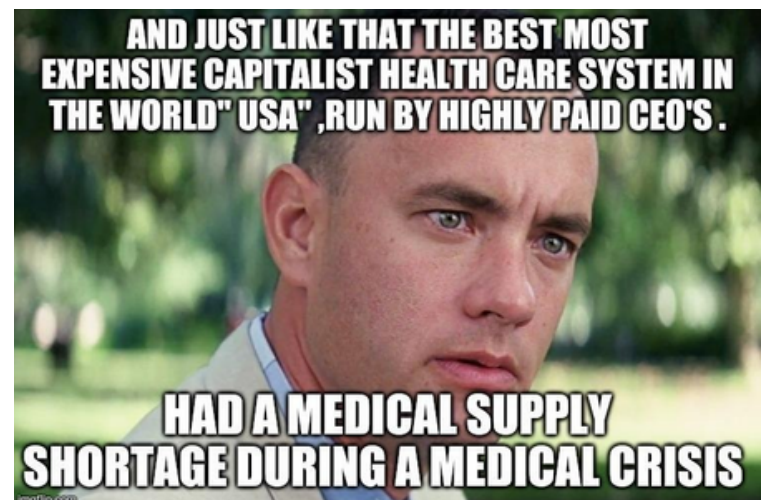
Proponents of the Mask Transparency Act in Nassau County, say the ban will combat crime during protests. It was introduced in response to "antisemitic incidents, often perpetrated by those in masks," which really mean anyone that has worn a mask while protesting Israel's genocidal war on Gaza in the last year.

This bill is one of several that are setting a dangerous and authoritarian precedent in the United States aimed at silencing protest inside the United States against Israel's actions.

While it happened in New York, Republican lawmakers in North Carolina are poised to overturn Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's recent veto of legislation to criminalize masking. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) said this month she supports legislative efforts to ban masks on the subway.

In response, many people have criticized the mask bans as an attack against protesters, but also because the bans are being implemented while we still deal with COVID surges in many parts of the country! This politically motivated ban threatens public health especially healthcare workers or immunocompromised people that are at greater risk.

Healthcare workers should unite against these egregious policies that endanger our most vulnerable, could lead to hospital surges and unsafe conditions for medical staff and patients.



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