



Speak Out Now

August 24, 2026

baltimore@speakoutsocialists.org

speakoutsocialists.org

Their “Record Economy” is Working for the Billionaires, Not Us

Trump often likes to talk about how he is overseeing the greatest economy the U.S. has ever seen. While he does this, companies like Anthropic, SpaceX, and OpenAI dominate the headlines and are valued at hundreds of billions of dollars. But for ordinary working people, we experience a different reality. We feel it the hardest in prices. The cost of oil and gas has skyrocketed because of the U.S. war on Iran, and increased energy costs increase the price of everything else. Every business that ships, heats, cools, or manufactures faces increased prices, and the bosses just pass that cost straight on to us.

Meanwhile, the oil companies are collecting record profits. ExxonMobil reported \$14.5 billion in profit for April through June 2026 alone. Chevron took in \$12 billion in those three months. Even when the price of oil on the world market goes down a bit, that doesn't mean the price at the pump goes down. The gas stations keep charging us more to keep making that extra money. The war has been a catastrophe for the people living through it — but very good business for the companies profiting from it.

Food prices tell the same story. Since 2019, average food prices have gone up about 34%, with some items, like ground beef, costing 79% more. Executives in the grocery industry have openly admitted they took advantage of rising inflation to raise prices even faster than their own costs were rising. In other words, they are just ripping us off — squeezing people at the checkout line because they know we will have to pay. For the first 18 months of Trump's second term, the average working class household has had to pay an extra \$3,500 just to get by.

As the average working family is struggling to get by, the richest 1% have never been richer. In 2025, billionaires gained \$1.5 trillion — a 22% increase in their wealth — bringing their combined wealth to \$8.2 trillion. The top 1% alone holds more wealth than the bottom 90% combined. Put another way: The top 10 richest people in the U.S. earned at least \$80 million per hour last year, about 1,300 times what the average worker makes in a year. And they are getting wealthier and wealthier. For everyone else, even finding work has become difficult. Unemployment among young people is about twice the national rate. Forty percent of working college graduates have jobs that never required the degree they went into debt for.

And the jobs that do exist are often part-time with few benefits, and chaotic schedules. And meanwhile, the bosses use the threat of AI to lay people off and get the work done with even fewer people.

As the billionaires and corporations continue raising costs, cutting jobs, and tightening their grip over society, the government is aiding them every step of the way. The Trump administration gifted the super rich with about \$4 trillion in tax cuts over ten years. And they funded this with cuts to food assistance (SNAP), when millions suffer from food insecurity and increasing prices. They made record cuts to Medicaid, when we already have one of the most expensive healthcare systems in the world.

And while they cut the services working families rely on, and give tax breaks to the rich, they are spending more money on the military and ICE. The administration is asking for \$1.5 trillion for the military. ICE's budget was tripled in order to recruit more thugs to terrorize immigrant communities with impunity, and spend billions of dollars buying warehouses to turn into concentration camp-like facilities. And they continue to spend billions of dollars on bombs to use in Israel and in their war on Iran.

It should be no surprise that the U.S. federal debt is now at \$40 trillion, increasing by \$3.8 trillion since Trump began his second term. That amount of debt grows by about \$1 trillion per year or \$83 billion per month just on interest alone.

And the reality is that this has happened under both Democrats and Republicans. Under Trump things have accelerated a bit. But both parties defend this system. Both parties like to call this an affordability crisis. The truth is, for them and the billionaires, there is no crisis. This is how their system works — workers do all the work and the rich make a killing off of us.

There is vast wealth in our world — more than enough for everyone to live decently. But it is in the hands of a tiny class of parasites who keep getting richer and throwing the lives of working people into more misery and chaos. We don't have to go along with this. We do the work, and we shouldn't have to pay for their chaos. It is our labor that makes their system run, so we should have a say about what all of that wealth is used for.

JHH Career Architecture Hides Damage to Workers

Johns Hopkins Hospital is continuing to roll out its new “career architecture.” They say they are trying to make their system “clearer” for workers. But people are finding their job titles being changed under them. For example, some people who are techs will now become aides. When bosses change structures and titles like this, it gives them a chance to hide other changes that are bad for workers. Some people may get paid less when their jobs are “aligned” with those in other departments. Maybe a few people will end up better off, but ask yourself: When have management-driven changes resulted in better pay and conditions for most workers? If JHH actually cared about their workers, lower-paid workers would be “aligned” by raising their job titles and pay, never by lowering them.

The Justice Department Targets Kilmar... Again

On August 17, lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice went to a federal appeals court to attempt to once again file charges against Kilmar Abrego Garcia. In May of this year, a judge threw out human smuggling charges that were brought against Abrego Garcia, a Maryland man targeted by ICE for deportation. Judge Waverly Crenshaw held that the Justice Department leveled these charges against Abrego Garcia as retaliation for him successfully suing the government for his wrongful deportation last year.

Meanwhile, just last week, UMB pharmacy professor Berhanu Kibret was denied release from an ICE facility, despite having a work permit to teach in the U.S. The government that is taking our teachers, neighbors, and loved ones away while using terror to enforce stagnant wages, and rising costs that keep all of us down.

Eggs Are the Latest Toxic Groceries

On August 12th, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) put a “class I” label on 19 million chicken eggs. This means that the eggs may “cause serious adverse health consequences or death.” So far, the eggs recalled have been in the South. In recent months, we’ve also seen a huge outbreak of cyclosporiasis through lettuce, resulting in over 9,400 cases of illness and two deaths. And now some jalapeños and blueberries are being recalled, too.

This is a public health crisis. With climate impact, tariffs, and high gas prices, our food is already too expensive. Now we have to worry if it will poison us, too. But as long as corporate profits are the number one goal of businesses and government, large-scale food producers will continue to cut corners at our expense.

We live in the wealthiest country in the world, and it is our labor that has created all of this wealth. We aren’t the ones who benefit from this. The super rich — the bosses of the big corporations and banks — keep the wealth and make all the decisions. Working people do the work that makes society run, and we can organize to unite our forces. When we do, we have enormous power to change things and make a better world.

Trump’s New Vaccine Order Attacks Our Health!

On August 10th, Trump issued an executive order calling for the separation of combination vaccines, including the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) shots. The order also states that appointments for combination vaccines should be spread out as much as possible. Health experts have warned that there is no scientific basis for this change. In fact, this decision will make getting vaccines harder for everyone and will place many at risk of illness.

If implemented, this order will spell disaster for many working class people. To vaccinate their kids, parents will have to take time off work multiples times instead of just once, in some cases six separate days. Keeping their children safe and healthy will now come at great cost to working class families!

Billionaires want to keep us down for profit

Here’s how:

**AI
Data Centers
Surveillance
ICE**



Learn more:

Sunday, August 30, 5pm

**Sunday Room at 2640 Space
2640 St Paul St, Baltimore**



A Speak Out Socialists Event