

Speak Out Now! At Alta Bates 9-9-19

Just Take It?

Contract negotiations are coming up for the nurses and of course, Sutter is acting like they have no money to spare. Meanwhile nurses who've worked for Alta Bates forever are moving or trying to pick up shifts at other hospitals. How can Sutter expect to pay worse than the standard in the region when they report \$12 billion in revenue every year? Why should nurses continue to just take it?

Retrofit? Where's the Facts?

There was a KQED interview on the program Forum in which Sutter Health said that the Alta Bates building can't be retrofitted, and their only option is to move and build a major new wing of the hospital in Oakland. This is going to mean longer trips to the E.R. on the I-80 corridor, extra minutes that could be the difference between life and death. But when Sutter won't release the details of the move, how can we know what the truth is?

Flexed to Pieces

These days, so many workers are flexing that it seems like people's schedules have had holes punched in them. It might seem nice to get off early, but there's so much pressure now to flex off when things get a little slow, you have to ask who really benefits? Sutter does. They've nibbled so many holes in our schedules, they've started to look like Swiss cheese. Does anyone smell a rat?

Fantasy Future

It's football season, and you know what that means – fantasy football. Lots of people love playing imaginary football using facts and figures from the game. It's good that people exercise their imaginations because due to climate change, at the rate the planet is going, we won't have a future to live in. We have two choices to make about the future - imagine it while you can because it's only a fantasy... or fight to make a future worth living more than a fantasy.

**Come Talk to Us:
3:00PM-4:30PM, Tuesday
and 3:00-4:30PM, Friday**

The Bottom Line: Sutter's Top Priority

Sutter is facing another major lawsuit, this time for price-gouging its patients by taking advantage of its powerful position as Northern California's largest health system. For instance, Sutter is in trouble for making insurers sign contracts with all of its hospitals or else none at all, preventing price negotiation at the local level. This gives Sutter all the cards to set prices as they please. While this hurts patients, of course insurance companies don't like it either, and they've made enough noise for the California attorney general to step in on their side.

So, Sutter is planning to take away Berkeley's only ER to avoid paying for a retrofit, threatening to charge Alta Bates workers high prices just to park at work, and price-gouging patients. The same message comes across over and over: to Sutter management, the bottom line is the top priority.

Come to a Speak Out Discussion:

The Climate Emergency: The Future is in Our Hands

Saturday, Sept 28th

Doors open @ 6:30, discussion at 7 South
Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St., \$5



Sidewalk Bubblegum ©1995 Clay Butler