All in This Together

Kaiser Oakland is chaotic because things change every day. Some things are slightly more organized as we have been getting ready for the surge of patients with COVID symptoms. But sometimes our communication fails, and we want to go at each other's throats because none of us are used to the new ways of working.

Let's remember, as workers, we are all in this together: in the unknown, in the process of learning. And our best tool is to understand where we are coming from and how we got into this mess to begin with.

Some or ALL?

Since COVID-19 has come to the Bay, Kaiser Oakland hasn’t been the same. Some of us have had more time to spend with each other and strengthen our relationships at work. Some of us have been made to feel like we don't matter as much as other workers who are considered to be more skilled.

But ALL of us are tired of the daily changes because it is hard to know what we are dealing with. ALL of us have tried to take the positive with the negative. ALL of us know we have to take care of each other, especially because those in management have shown that they don't care about ANY of us.

Nobody in the Government CARES Act

Under the recently announced CARES Act, the federal government is giving $100 billion in grants to hospitals around the country to help care for patients affected by COVID-19. However, instead of issuing money based on need and highest coronavirus impact, the act is making hospitals apply for the money. And the first $30 billion will be automatically issued based on past Medicare business, meaning hospitals with a high impact of COVID patients and previously low numbers of Medicare patients will not receive much.

So instead of money being sent to places like New York City hospitals, where patient loads are incredibly high, it will be delivered based on previous Medicare revenues. And the remaining $70 billion will require hospitals in need to take the time to apply. If actual healthcare workers were responsible for allocating funds, instead of the politicians that are in charge today, hospitals most severely impacted by the crisis would automatically be first in line for aid.

Technology for a Few

Despite all of the warnings against it, some people are still having to come in to work, like MAs who have to “room” their patients for video appointments with their doctors or place phone calls to patients. For such a technologically advanced corporation like Kaiser to not be able to set up these workers to work from home is ridiculous.

The reality is that the technology that Kaiser loves to boast about is only important to them if it makes them a profit.