



# Central Labor Council Contra Costa County

AFL-CIO

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## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HIGH QUALITY, EQUITABLE HEALTH SERVICES AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OAKLAND

WHEREAS, generations of East Bay children have thrived because of the care they received at Children's Hospital Oakland; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Affiliation of Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland with UCSF was touted as a collaboration of equals, a public-private partnership strengthening both hospitals; and

WHEREAS, in the ensuing years, the Affiliation has jeopardized the future of Children's Hospital Oakland and its mission to serve all children regardless of background, race, medical condition, or ability to pay, and has weakened the role of Children's Hospital Oakland as both a safety net hospital for the neediest children in our community, and a tertiary care pediatric referral center for the sickest; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Children's Hospital Oakland patients come from Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, and San Joaquin Counties and the patient population at Children's Hospital Oakland reflects the demographics of the East Bay, with many immigrants, children of color, and families from working-class communities; and

WHEREAS, many of Children's Hospital Oakland's patients have been forced to go to San Francisco for services that were provided in Oakland in the past, and are still available on the Oakland campus and in Children's Hospital Oakland's other East Bay facilities, or have not received care at all; and

WHEREAS, inpatient and surgical volumes at Oakland have plummeted since the Affiliation, while San Francisco's census has increased significantly; and

WHEREAS, costs to patients and families have skyrocketed, with devastating economic impacts often exacerbated by the loss of household income during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, many experienced, expert, and beloved nurses, doctors, and health care workers have chosen to leave Children's Hospital Oakland for better working conditions at surrounding facilities; and

WHEREAS, the failure by UCSF management to fill vacant positions has exacerbated short staffing and hindered the remaining staff's ability to provide high quality care; and

WHEREAS, critical services, including complex cardiovascular surgery, adolescent medicine, behavior and development specialists, pulmonologists, pediatric surgeons, MRI capability, neuro-oncologists, and sickle cell clinicians and researchers, have been neglected or cut after UCSF took over the leadership and control of Children's Oakland; and

WHEREAS, UCSF continues to implement changes to operations that result in the degradation of the purpose and obligations of a full-service safety net hospital without the community's knowledge or employees' input; and

WHEREAS, since the Affiliation, nurses, health care workers, nurse practitioners, and physicians have

worked to address these increasing healthcare disparities and costs, and have attempted to engage the UCSF leadership without success; and

WHEREAS, multiple requests for financial information, including information regarding past and future consolidation, elimination, and transfer of services from Oakland to San Francisco have been denied by UCSF; and

WHEREAS, the transfer of wealth and resources from Children's Oakland to UCSF can be seen as a form of structural racism, where people with less access to money and influence also get less access to healthy food, healthy air and water, equal rights, and quality health care; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Contra Costa Labor Council, AFL-CIO, demands that UCSF Health and the UC Board of Regents restore high quality, tertiary care for all children at Children's Hospital Oakland; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Contra Costa Labor Council, AFL-CIO demands that UCSF Healthcare create a Board and Executive Leadership Group for Children's Hospital Oakland that is transparent and accountable to our diverse Community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Contra Costa Labor Council, AFL-CIO urges UCSF to create a health care system committed to rooting out structural racism and correcting the inequities between San Francisco and Oakland, as well as the other East Bay, North Bay, and Central Valley communities where the majority of Children Hospital's patient population lives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Contra Costa Labor Council, AFL-CIO demands that UCSF commit to respecting and retaining nurses, doctors, and other health care workers who have dedicated their careers to care for this community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Contra Costa Labor Council, AFL-CIO will communicate the substance of this resolution to the Oakland City Council, UCSF Health, and the Regents of the University of California.

Submitted by California Nurses Association



