

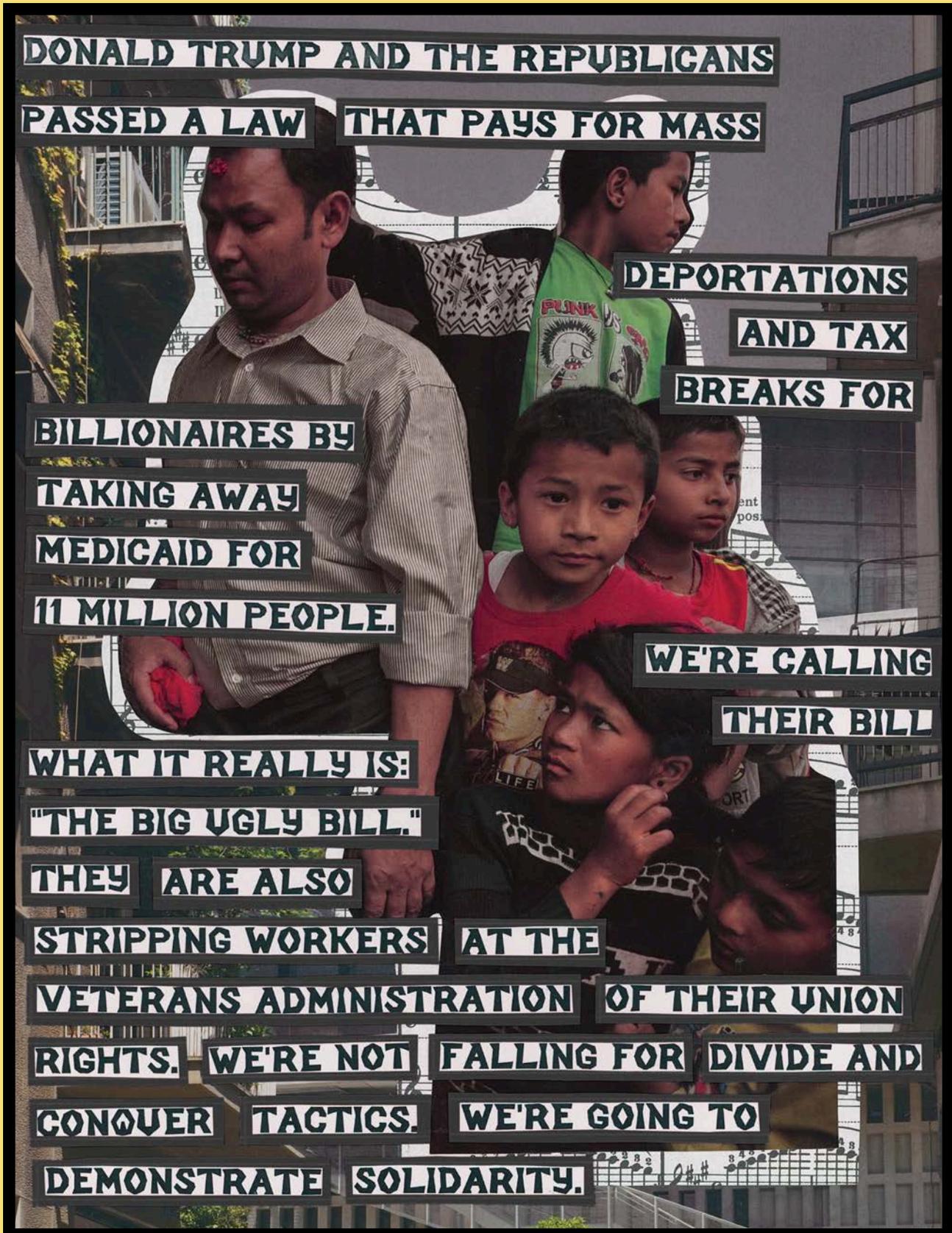
FIGHT BACK, FIGHT FORWARD CAMPAIGN

November 2025



Learn about our campaign, hear from our members, see our artwork, and more!

What is the Fight Back, Fight Forward Campaign?



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Introduction: Why We Fight

“Families First, Not Billionaires” didn’t appear out of nowhere; it stems from communities that have been resisting austerity, racism, and the privatization inherent in neoliberalism. Across the U.S., from public housing to the resources provided to immigrant community members, people have been organizing to defend essential care services. They have been fighting for Medicaid, food assistance, and community-based health programs because they understand that these systems are under threat from a political class that prioritizes tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy.

As the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” (nicknamed the “Big Ugly Bill”) moved through Congress, activists recognized it as the latest attack in a long-standing struggle, not just a one-time battle. This campaign emerged from mutual-aid networks, racial justice coalitions, and labor groups who understand that these cuts are not accidental; they represent the logic of capitalism and white supremacy in action.

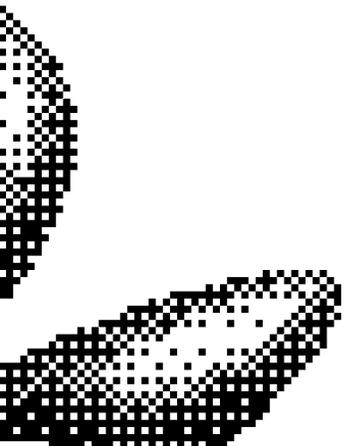
The core message is clear and urgent: public money must support care, not billionaire greed. This isn’t merely about preserving existing services; it’s about reclaiming our right to a world centered around care. Care for our children, our elders, and our neighbors, rather than handouts to the wealthiest individuals.



That's at Stake: Trump's "Big Ugly Bill" and the War on Care

Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," derisively referred to in progressive and radical circles as the Big Ugly Bill, is not just a tax cut package; it's a sweeping redistribution of public resources from the poor, sick, and vulnerable to the richest and most powerful.

Policy analysts and local media have documented how this bill imposes deep cuts to essential social programs to fund tax breaks, mass deportations, and increased policing.



Here are some of its most devastating provisions:

- **Medicaid Cuts:** The Congressional Budget Office and other independent analyses estimate that up to 10-12 million Americans could lose health coverage due to these changes. In Illinois alone, officials warn that hundreds of thousands will be stripped from Medicaid. The bill introduces work requirements for adults aged 19-64 to maintain coverage (80 hours per month) and imposes additional verification burdens on enrollees.

- **SNAP / Food Assistance Cuts:** The legislation significantly reduces food aid by enforcing stricter work requirements, shifting administrative and benefit costs to states, and scaling back federal support. In Illinois, state leaders estimate that around 360,000 people could lose SNAP benefits while the state is compelled to absorb hundreds of millions in new costs.

- **Tax Breaks for Billionaires and Corporations:** The bill locks in and expands Trump-era tax cuts, disproportionately benefiting the ultra-rich. The wealthiest households receive the most significant financial gains, while working-class individuals face diminishing benefits.

- **Increased Funding for Deportations and Detention:** The bill dramatically raises funding for ICE and border enforcement, which could amount to tens or hundreds of billions over time to expand the detention infrastructure. The Vera Institute reports a 265% increase in funding for new detention facilities.

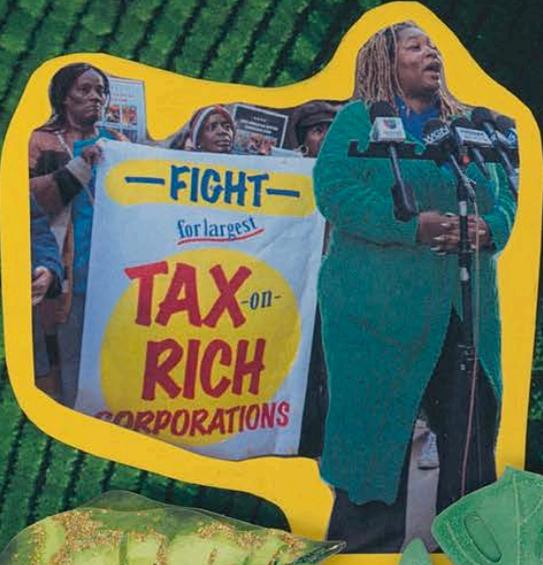
- **Union-Busting of VA (Veterans Affairs) Workers:** Although less frequently covered in mainstream outlets, labor and veteran advocates warn that the rights of VA workers to organize are threatened under this bill. This move further undermines the care infrastructure and the power of workers.

Together, these policies exacerbate inequality. The working class, Black and brown communities, immigrants, elders, and disabled individuals are targeted to subsidize corporate tax breaks and a more militarized state. In the guise of “making cuts,” the bill is essentially waging war on care.

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SETTLE

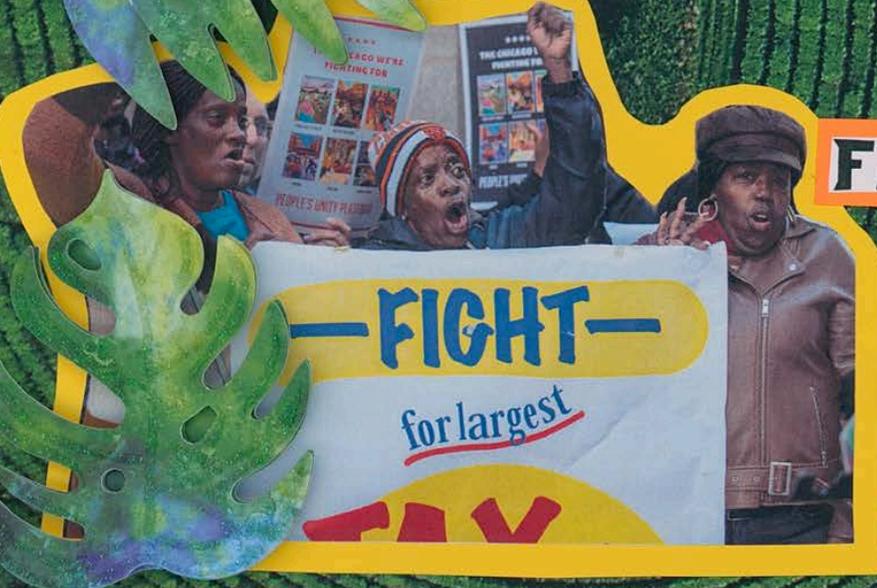
JUSTICE WORK IN CHICAGO
LOOKS LIKE:

**FIGHT BACK,
FIGHT FORWARD**



**FIGHT BACK,
FIGHT FORWARD**

**FIGHT BACK,
FIGHT FORWARD**



**FIGHT BACK,
FIGHT FORWARD**

Connecting Our Struggles

The Big Ugly Bill is not solely a healthcare or economic policy. It is a racial and capitalist project deeply rooted in white supremacy. Cuts to Medicaid, increased funding for ICE, and union-busting are interconnected battles in the same struggle.

Medicaid cuts deny healthcare to populations that are disproportionately Black, brown, and working class. These communities also face the bulk of mass incarceration and immigrant detention.

Deportations and detention are reflective of a longer history of carceral violence rooted in slave patrols, when we trace ICE raids back to the logic of slave patrollers who enforced racial hierarchy through surveillance and coercion.

Incarceration and punishment create a framework in which some individuals are deemed “disposable.” The rationale that allows states to cut healthcare for already marginalized groups is the same logic that permits their imprisonment or detention in ICE facilities. When individuals lose Medicaid, they are not just losing healthcare; they are losing their power and autonomy.

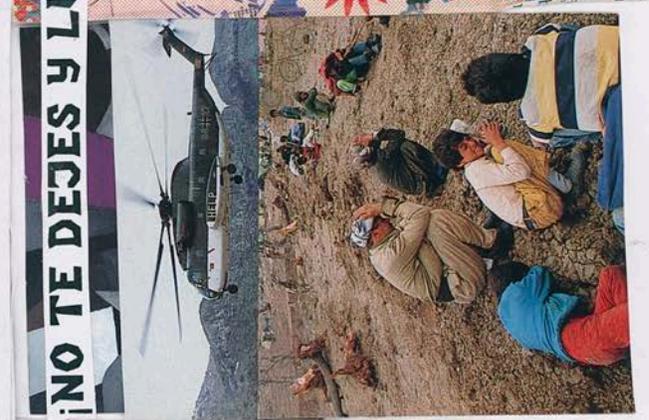


Zine 101 Workshop:

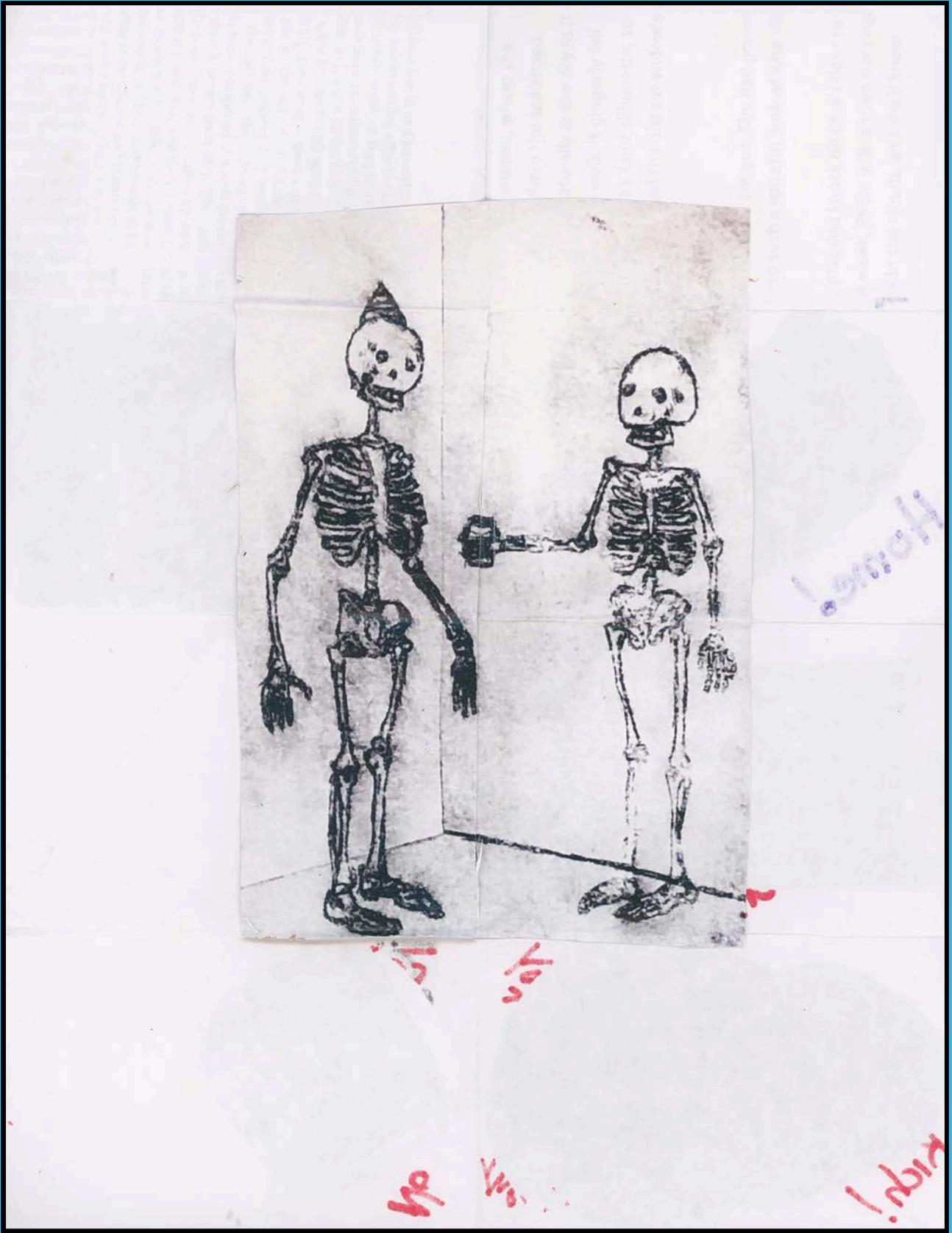
On November 1st, 2025, the Fight Back, Fight Forward Campaign had a zine workshop. Those who attended the workshop learned about how Black + queer individuals during the Harlem Renaissance created the first-ever zines, how many grassroots organizations use zines to disseminate information, and the importance of archiving our thoughts during this wave of fascism.

During the workshop, people created art in the form of zines, collages, writing reflections, and paintings. The most fulfilling part of the process was seeing the visuals created by participants during the zine workshop, especially since it was many people's first experience making a zine.

Here are the pieces that people created as they reflected on the work happening within the Fight Back, Fight Forward Campaign and the future that they are dreaming of.



Artist: Paula H



Artist: Paula H



I am building towards a better world world with peace and unity where we all stand united and fight together.



for our future.

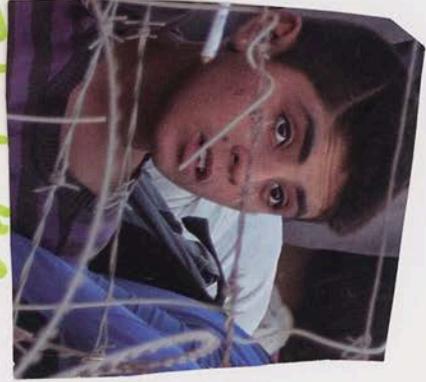


My reflections are from all the lobby days and events that I have been involved in to make the Union as well as the city better. We are moving in great strides and through our fights we will become greater and greater

Proud SEIU Member

Looking forward to Ending The year on A good Note with More Victories





**Black the
Benches**

**Thinking of Hurricane Harvey
During a Winter Storm**

A little known fact: It was Noah's wife who, sleep deprived as she was, built the ark on a winter night like this, the light of the moon reflected on a frozen pond. Not true but suppose the hurricane happened so I could learn, finally, the lesson of loss & letting go though who could ever forget the rafts, jet skis, canoes, cats in cages, dogs in kennels, the shivering owl seeking refuge inside a man's car, the child in a yellow raincoat & pink boots wading through the rivered street, a colony of fire ants floating on top of the water...

BY AYOKUNLE FALOMO



Stop Stations



Food for All



**Spot Fighters
for Justice**

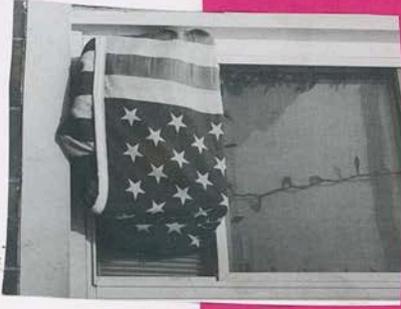


**Climate
Justice**



**Ready to Fight—
and Win**

Artist: Myra



United We Stand

Are you ready to
build communities?

we are facing homelessness,
Lacking of free speech,
Quality Education in our
public Schools, Devastating
Cuts to Medicaid and
the government funded
food program. Attacks
on Seniors, People with
disabilities.

FIGHT BACK,

**LET'S SAVE
OUR LIVES!**



FIGHT BACK,

FIGHT FORWARD

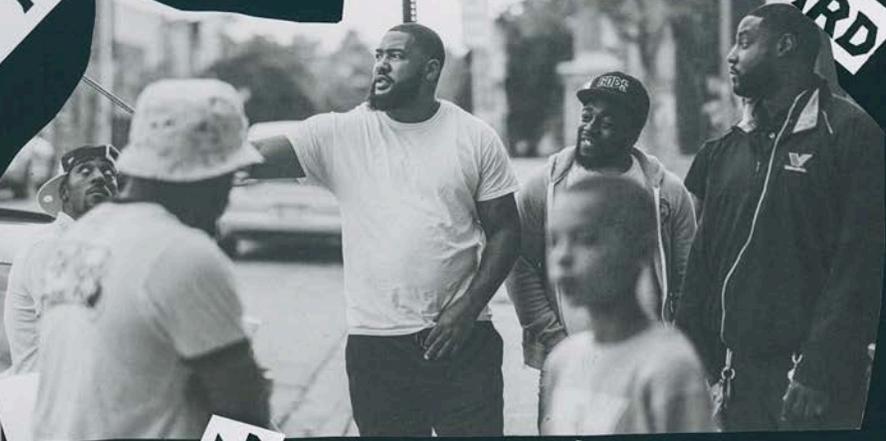
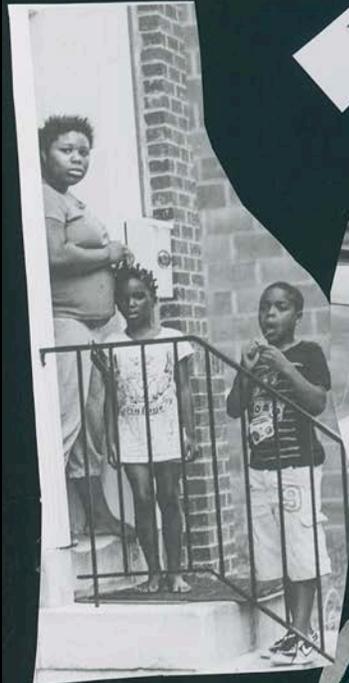
Artist: Gwen V.



**FIGHT BACK,
FIGHT FORWARD**



**FIGHT BACK,
FIGHT FORWARD**



**FIGHT BACK,
FIGHT FORWARD**



**FIGHT BACK,
FIGHT FORWARD**

**FIGHT BACK,
FIGHT FORWARD**



Artist: Jo H.

We can all
do our part
for a better
world. We
are not alone!
Podemos hacer
las partes para
un mundo mejor
No estamos solos!

We need
everyone to
work together!



FIGHT BACK
FIGHT FORWARD
¡NO TE DEJES Y
LUCHA DE FRENTE!

Necesitamos
todas personas
a trabajar
juntas!
Proteje todas
las criaturas
del mundo

I want a
better future
for my
daughter
Climate
Justice
No more
Capitalism!

La Justicia
para todas
criaturas
del mundo.
Termine
el capitalismo!
End Capitalism

Quiero un
futuro mejor
para mi
hija
La justicia
de la cima
¡No más
capitalismo!

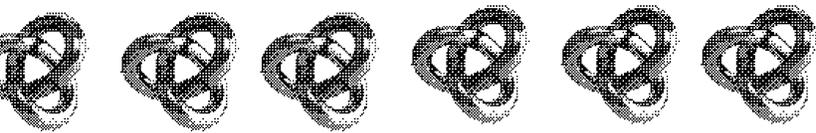
Justice for
all creatures

Artist: Rebekah M.

Interview with Susana

For this zine, Susana, a dedicated member with the Fight Back, Fight Forward campaign shared insight with us via an interview:





Many of oppressed folks are taught that our struggles are separate: how did you see they're connected?

Our struggles are interconnected because we all face similar experiences of discrimination and inequality. A recent example is the No Kings rally, where more than seven million people from various races protested against the injustices we are currently facing.

Can you tell us a little about yourself, where you're from, what community you call home, and what brings you to this fight?

My name is Susana. I came from Mexico when I was seven years old, and I now call Chicago my home. I want to be the voice of those who cannot speak because they are afraid.

When you hear about Trump's "Big Ugly Bill," what do you feel is truly at stake for our communities?

The Big Ugly Bill is taking away our rights and destroying our communities by depleting the little resources we have left.

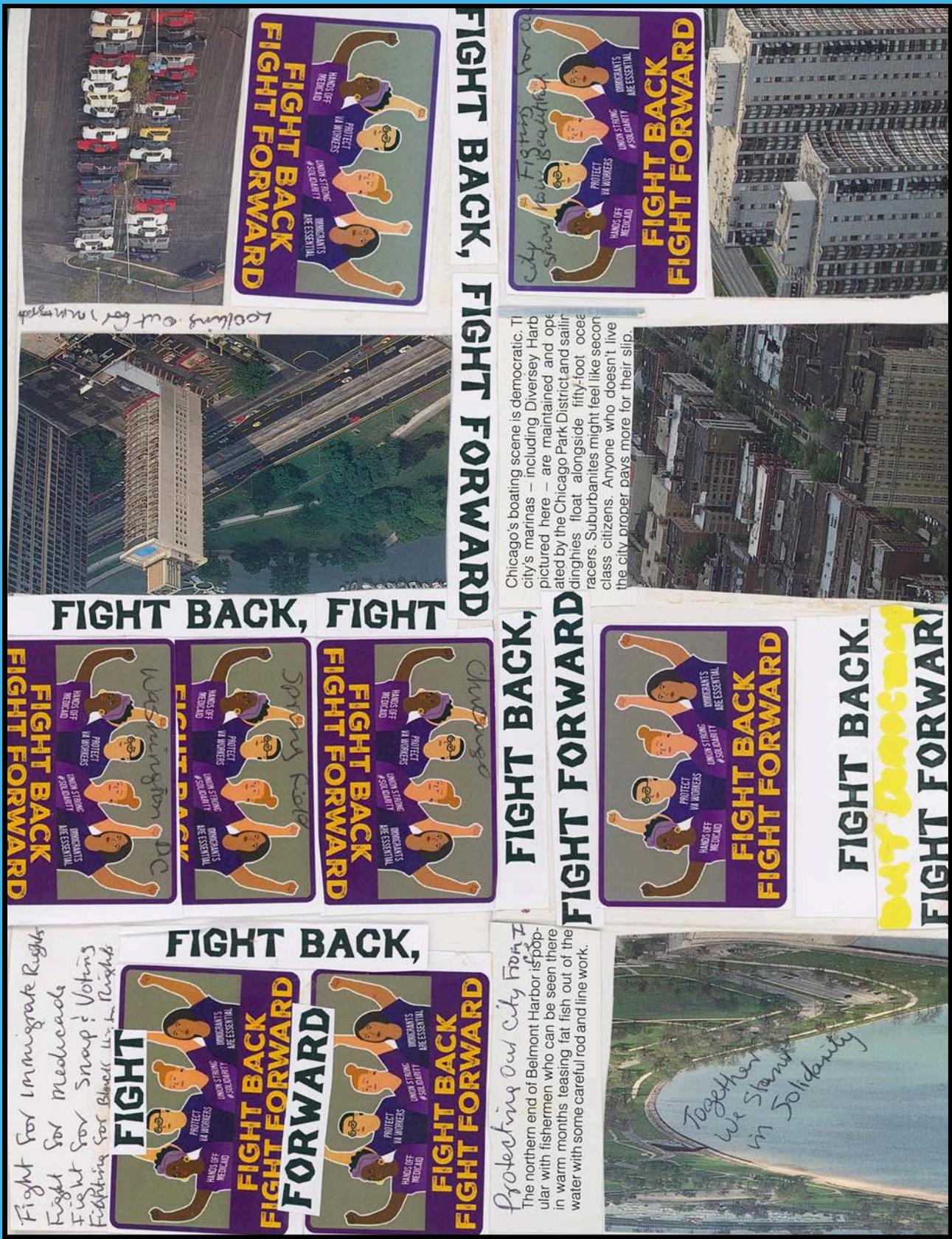
When you think about "Families First, Not Billionaires," what does that mean to you personally?

"Family first" means thinking of mothers who must take on second jobs to survive and ensuring that seniors can retire with dignity instead of needing to work part-time just to afford rent, food, and other essentials. It's time for billionaires to pay their fair share.

What role does storytelling play in our movement? How do our stories help shift power?

Storytelling plays a crucial role in changing stereotypes and helping us understand the challenges others face. It's a powerful way to learn about different cultures and perspectives.

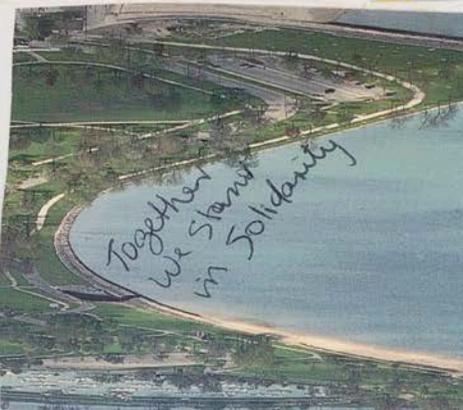




Fight For Immigrant Rights
 Fight For Medicare
 Fight For SNAP & Voting
 Fighting For Black Lives Rights

FIGHT BACK, FIGHT FORWARD
 HANDS OFF MEDICAID
 PROTECT WORKERS
 WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL
 #SOLIDARITY

Protecting Our City From I
 The northern end of Belmont Harbor is popular with fishermen who can be seen there in warm months teasing fat fish out of the water with some careful rod and line work.



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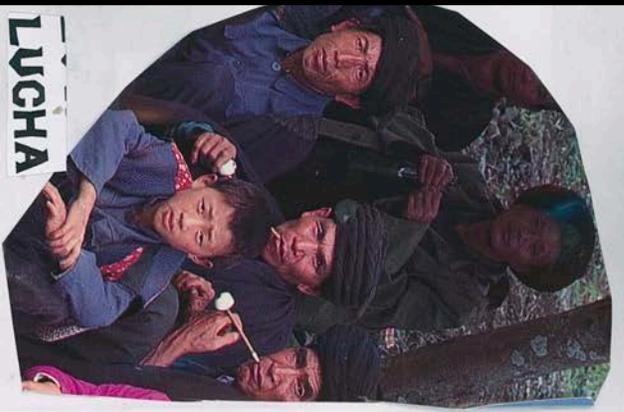
FIGHT BACK, FIGHT FORWARD

Chicago's boating scene is democratic. The city's marinas — including Diversey Harbor pictured here — are maintained and operated by the Chicago Park District and sailordomies float alongside fifty-foot ocean racers. Suburbanites might feel like second class citizens. Anyone who doesn't live the city proper pays more for their slip.

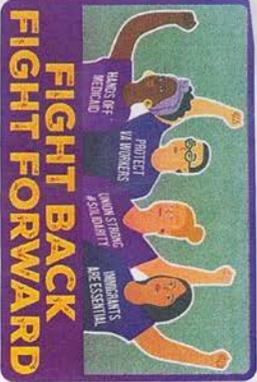


FIGHT BACK, FIGHT FORWARD
 HANDS OFF MEDICAID
 PROTECT WORKERS
 WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL
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Artist: Claudette S.



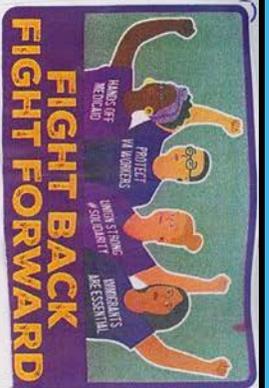
LUCHA



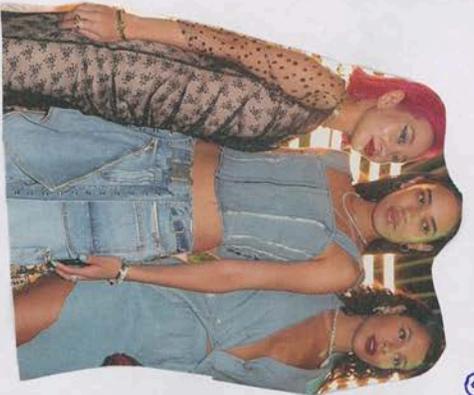
!NO TE DEJES



FIGHT
FIGHT
FIGHT
FIGHT



!NO TE DEJES
LUCHA
DE FRENTE!



LUCHA



Artist: Ana N.

**¡NO TE DEJES Y LUCHA DE FRENTE!
¡NO TE DEJES Y LUCHA DE FRENTE!
¡NO TE DEJES Y LUCHA DE FRENTE!**



Artist: Carolina R.

We want for
all



When we fight
together

My dreams
is that NO
one will
every have
to live
in Poverty

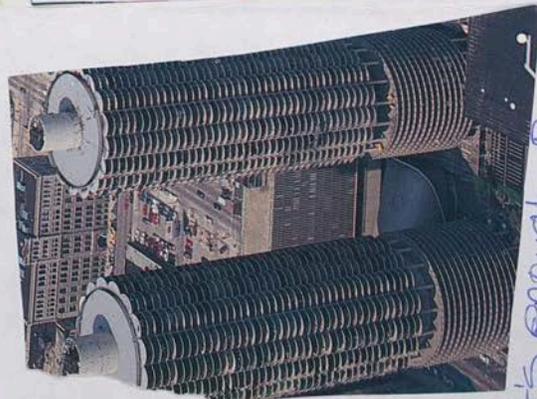
FIGHT BACK,



So that all
of us can
live with
dignity



Food and
affordable
housing for
everyone



It's enough room
for all of us

Artist: Judy H.

Protected Union Activity

- Discussing working conditions, wages, or safety concerns.
- Forming, joining, or assisting a union to bargain.
- Asserting rights under a collective bargaining agreement.
- Protection from retaliation.

Safe Staffing

- Prioritize your work
- Whistleblower protection
- Contact I DPH

Est. 2025

Weingarten Rights

Investigatory Interviews

If this discussion, meeting or telephone call could in any way be related to my being disciplined or terminated or affect my working conditions, I exercise my federal rights and hereby request that my union representative or Shop steward be present.

Please do not request I waive this right.

Est. 1975

First	Work	Work Place	Violations
		Insubordination	Attendance
		Discourteous Behavior	Job abandonment
		Arguments	Denying Residents' Rights
Later!	Grieve		



Know Your Rights in Your Workplace



Artist: Tracy E.

How We're Fighting Back and Building Forward

In response to current challenges, the “Families First, Not Billionaires” campaign has developed several strategies to resist not just in opposition but to build power and new visions for the future.

Direct Actions: People have organized protests, rallies, and civil disobedience at Congressional offices, state capitols, and ICE facilities. These direct confrontations hold policymakers accountable while centering the voices of those directly affected.

Storytelling Campaigns: Organizers are gathering and amplifying testimonies from individuals facing the loss of Medicaid, SNAP benefits, or facing detention. By humanizing the impacts of the proposed legislation, these stories are shared across social media, community forums, and mutual aid networks.

Coalition-Building: The campaign unites labor unions, immigrant rights groups, abolitionist and Black liberation organizers, healthcare advocates, and community mutual aid networks. By coming together across race, geography, and identity, they resist divisive tactics and build collective power rooted in solidarity.

Community Organizing: Individuals are forming local chapters, neighborhood assemblies, and mutual aid pods to provide direct support: offering childcare, health clinics, eviction defense, and more. This demonstrates what a care-centered society can look like in practice.



No One Is Disposable

At the core of the campaign is a strong rejection of disposability. Organizers focus on the voices and experiences of those most targeted by current policies: individuals in prisons, jails, ICE detention, or struggling to access healthcare.

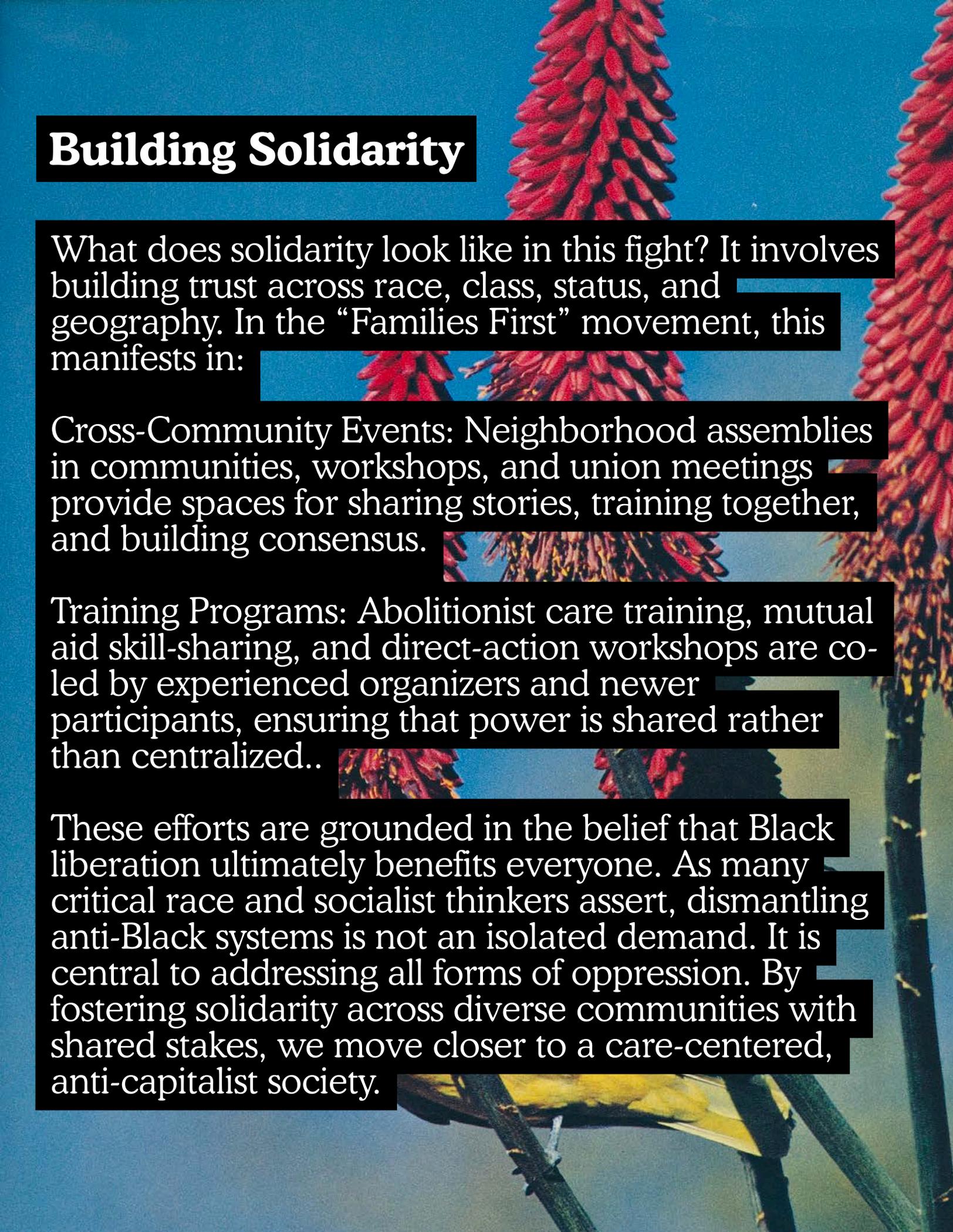
Immigrant mothers share the fear of detention raids and how each dollar cut from food assistance poses another threat to their children's future.

VA workers, facing attacks on their unions, warn that diminishing their collective power weakens the essential support structure for veterans.

People on Medicaid, especially elders, individuals with disabilities, and Black and Brown communities, describe losing coverage as a form of erasure, making them feel as though their lives don't matter.

This notion of disposability is not an unfortunate side effect of the system; it is an inherent feature. The same dehumanizing logic that justifies the incarceration of individuals also justifies cutting their access to care. However, by organizing together, bound by a commitment to abolitionist care, we assert that no one is disposable.

Building Solidarity



What does solidarity look like in this fight? It involves building trust across race, class, status, and geography. In the “Families First” movement, this manifests in:

Cross-Community Events: Neighborhood assemblies in communities, workshops, and union meetings provide spaces for sharing stories, training together, and building consensus.

Training Programs: Abolitionist care training, mutual aid skill-sharing, and direct-action workshops are co-led by experienced organizers and newer participants, ensuring that power is shared rather than centralized..

These efforts are grounded in the belief that Black liberation ultimately benefits everyone. As many critical race and socialist thinkers assert, dismantling anti-Black systems is not an isolated demand. It is central to addressing all forms of oppression. By fostering solidarity across diverse communities with shared stakes, we move closer to a care-centered, anti-capitalist society.



Want to learn more about Fight Back, Fight Forward?:

- Follow us on Instagram at @seiuhcii
- Check out our campaign updates and action items via linktr.ee/seiuhcii

This zine was designed by Sarah Hutson and our campaign members!