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Dear Colleagues

I am writing to express EPSU's continuing solidarity with your industrial action in support of better pay for workers in health and social care but also to underline our strong opposition to any moves by the Finnish government to legislate to restrict or ban strike action by health workers.

It is outrageous that the Finnish government is considering such an initiative, knowing full well that Tehy and Super have made all possible efforts to maintain essential and emergency services during their action and indeed decided not to pursue industrial action in social care because of the acute shortage of staff in that sector.

The government needs to work with employers and trade unions to develop a strategy to tackle the critical staffing situation in health and social care rather than try to use legislation to prevent industrial action and attack the fundamental right to strike.

The proposal would lead to legislation in Finland being even stricter than in the UK where hundreds and thousands of health workers are being balloted for strike action and members of the main nurses' union are likely to back strike action for the first time in the unions' history.

The Finnish government will be setting a worrying example and EPSU will work closely with its Finnish affiliates to campaign against this unfair and unnecessary initiative.



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary