

Intervention Jan Schriefer on behalf of FNV Zorg en Welzijn
Lid Ledenparlement/Member Members' Parliament FNV Zorg en Welzijn
«Health Care is not a Market»
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My name is Jan Schriefer, I am a member of the Members' Parliament of the Dutch trade union FNV. I work in a hospital as security manager.

In Holland we have seen that the market has taken over health care. They see healthcare as a market, where it is legal to make profit over people who are ill.

It started with private clinics, which meant a serious threat for general hospitals.

The care that makes the most profit is provided in private clinics, where patients don't stay overnight. The expensive care stays in the general hospitals.

An other disaster is that the Dutch social insurance has disappeared. Let the market work, That is what they said would make healthcare less expensive. So all kind of insurance companies have taken over the healthcare insurance market. Last year they made one and a half billion Euro profit. And still they complain that care is expensive and their members get every year a pay rise on their health insurance.

The neo liberal government that we have is breaking down our social security system.

The government said that they can save money on health care.

Since the first of January 2015 they have made healthcare a job for local governments.

They also gave them a cut on the budget of 40%. The local governments did not complain.

The government also wants that family members take more care of their older or disabled family members.

So they reduced the home care for older people. They also wanted that older people stayed longer in their own home instead of in care homes.

Because of reducing on home care the providers of this care earned less money and wanted to reduce the salaries of their care workers. So they could make the same profit.

They gave their workers a few choices, 1 leave the company, 2 get a lower payment and the third option was to lose their job. Not much of a choice! The workers started to protest by complaining at the local governments. We even put up tents in front of the town-halls and decided to speak to the local government to emphasise and make them clear that there was a big problem.

On the 1st of May 2015 we launched a petition. In six weeks we got 735.000 signatures and we brought that to the general government in The Hague.

On the 12th of September we held a big demonstration in Amsterdam and now we are involved in getting even more support by not keeping it as a thing for care workers but as something which is in our all interest. Because on one or an other moment everybody will

need healthcare. The government have made some concessions but still not enough. Already over 50.000 care workers lost their job.

Our union has made a study about tax avoidance by big Dutch companies. In the last 5 years they have avoided 30 billion euro of taxes. With this money we could have kept our social security system alive.

Today our members get an invitation for a seminar on the 25 of May 2016

This seminar is about our battle against the commercialisation of healthcare and the successes that we achieved. A second part of the seminar will be about the danger of TISA another trade agreement which is even more dangerous than TTIP.

Also Doctors, who united to keep the free choice of doctors alive will attend to the seminar. The healthcare insurance companies want to tell the patient to which doctor he or she can go. While the free choice of a doctor is still a right for patients in the Netherlands. It is very important to unite as many people as possible to battle the commercialisation of healthcare