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VIA EMAIL

May 13, 2024

Dear Legislator:

We are writing to you on behalf of the union, SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania, which represents over thirty thousand healthcare workers across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to express our alarm and concern that the government of the Argentine Republic has intervened in the management of the public media companies (Canal 7 and the educational channels Encuentro, Paka Paka and Depor TV), with the aim of privatising, emptying and/or destroying them.

Delegating public communication to the market will result in the emptying of spaces that guarantee the diversity of cultural expression and, fundamentally, the right to reliable information. Public media are fundamental to guarantee information pluralism, cultural diversity and the strengthening of democracy. Moreover, they represent a fundamental and indispensable tool in democratic societies. No developed country in the world lacks a public media system.

Public media provides a critical source of in-depth news programming that is independent of political or economic forces to help fully educate citizens in a democratic system.

Additionally public media plays a key role in providing engaging educational content for children and youth that helps ensure there is supplemental basic education available to all regardless of economic status and provides basic citizenship skills to the youth.

The world is watching closely the evolution of this attack on public communication and the important role that the Congress of the Republic of Argentina is playing at this juncture. We stand in solidarity with, support, and accompany AATRAC, SATSAID, SALCO & SUTEP and the workers of the Public Media of Argentina, and we ask you to do everything in your power to prevent the government from moving forward with these policies that are so harmful to the Argentinean people.

Yours faithfully,

Matt Yarnell, President

cc: File (2)