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Billy Bragg's in tune with hospital protest

Singer Billy Bragg met NHS campaigners during a visit to Sussex as part of a national tour.

Bragg performed at the Dome in Brighton with his Hope Not Hate tour, which is being sponsored by Unison, Amicus and the GMB.

He met NHS staff and pledged his support for health workers fighting to protect Sussex hospital services.

Thousands of people across the county are protesting against possible cuts in vital hospital services such as accident and emergency and maternity.

They are also angry at continuing NHS job losses, bed closures, delays in treatment for patients to save money and a gradual shift towards paying private companies to treat NHS patients.

Bragg said: "The campaigns have put thousands of people on the streets of towns and villages across the county.

"It shows how strongly people feel about their public services and I am delighted to be in Brighton to pledge my support for the staff and communities defending free health care provision close to home."

8:52am Monday 18th December 2006

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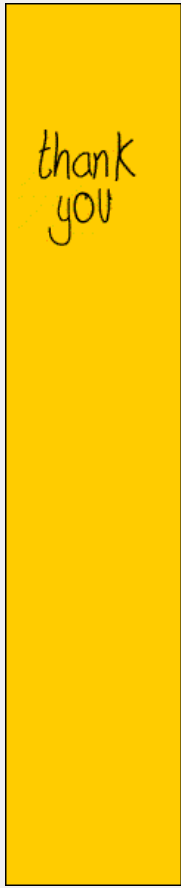
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