

Honorable Members of Congress,



Dr. Päivi Maria Räsänen is a long-serving Finnish legislator, medical doctor, and former Minister of the Interior. Born on 19 December 1959 in Sonkajärvi, Finland, she completed her Licentiate of Medicine at the University of Helsinki in 1984 and subsequently worked as a physician in hospital-based clinical practice.

She was first elected to the Parliament of Finland in 1995, representing the electoral district of Häme, and has served continuously since then. Over the course of her parliamentary career, she has become one of Finland's longest-tenured members of parliament. From June 2011 to May 2015, Dr. Räsänen served as Minister of the Interior, where her responsibilities included oversight of national internal security, the police and border forces, migration policy and church affairs.

In addition to her government and parliamentary duties, Dr. Räsänen has played a visible role in Finnish public discourse. She has authored several books and has been an active contributor to national discussions concerning healthcare, ethics, family policy, and issues related to religious freedom. She continues to serve actively in Parliament and remains an influential figure in Finnish legislative affairs.

Dr. Räsänen is married and is the mother of five children and grandmother to twelve grandchildren.



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