## Email template for writing to your MP

[MP's Name]

House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA

Dear [MP's Name] MP,

**Subject: Please support the Rare Cancers Bill**

My name is XXXXX and I am one of your constituents, my address is

[Your Address]

[City, Post Code]

[Email Address]

I am writing you, as my MP, to ask if you will support the **Rare Cancers Bill**, due to have its second reading on the 14th of March. Despite overall cancer survival rates rising by nearly 10 per cent between 2005 and 2020, rare cancers account for many of the lowest rates of survival, with some having a 1-year survival rate of less than 50 per cent.

The aim of the bill is to incentivise research and investment into the treatment of rare cancers and begin to close this gap.

This Private Members’ Bill has been proposed by Dr Scott Arthur MP and is inspired by his father-in-law who sadly died of a glioblastoma in 2018, only six months after diagnosis.

I am a person with a rare cancer called Leiomyosarcoma. [Please insert a few words re your personal story here to bring this to life for the MP. This is likely to increase your MP’s motivation to take an active role in supporting the bill.]

Leiomyosarcoma has an annual incidence rate of about 9.59 cases per million people in the UK. One of the challenges with this cancer is its genetic variability – it has many different subtypes. In the United States, whole genomic testing is used to identify mutations that can be targeted with existing drugs, offering more personalised treatment options. This approach is working well for patients, as their oncologists can access drugs used in other cancers to target these mutations. For example, a PARP inhibitor and immunotherapy are being used for Leiomyosarcoma patients with a BRCA2 mutation, successfully utilizing targeted medicine.

Personalised medicine is particularly important for rare cancers with different subtypes. Due to the low number of patients with Leiomyosarcoma, it is extremely difficult, if not nearly impossible, to run robust clinical trials for the subsets of Leiomyosarcoma. This is before even considering the financial motivation of drug companies for funding trials.

Even with an increase in genetic testing, in the UK it remains challenging to use the results practically in clinics, as oncologists do not have a route to access these drugs.

I am asking you as my MP to advocate for:

* + Recognizing the potential of targeted mutation treatments through genetic testing for rare cancers.
  + Allowing UK oncologists to test for genetic weaknesses by carrying out Whole Genomic Sequencing
  + Where appropriate to access appropriate approved ‘orphan’ drugs, without waiting for further clinical trials, which, for the reasons outlined above, are impractical for rare cancers.
  + Supporting the bill to create commercial benefits for drug companies to include rare cancers in their trials. For instance, with the advancement of mRNA vaccines and other exciting new cancer drugs, this is the perfect opportunity for rare cancers with limited options to be tested near the front of the queue rather than the back.

Thank you so much for reading my letter. I really hope you will be an active member of Parliament in helping shape the Rare Cancer Bill, and that my letter has contributed to this effort.

Regards

[Your Name]