[Date]

[Name of MP]

[Address of MP]

[Constituency office]

Dear [Name] MP

[DELETE THE IN BOLD TEXT AS APPROPRIATE]

I am writing to you from NAME OF ORGANISATION. We support disabled people by providing voluntary sector services within your constituency. [ADD EXPLANATORY TEXT.] We are a member of the Voluntary Organisations Disability Group (VODG) which is the umbrella for disability charities across the country.

With a new administration now in power I am writing to ask you to support our call to action on government which is urging vital support to be provided to voluntary sector organisations and their care workers during this cost of living crisis. Without support the voluntary care sector is at risk of being eroded, and services pulled away from disabled people and their families.

Disabled people and their families require high quality, safe and effective care and support. To achieve this care workers must be paid fairly but currently the latest evidence demonstrates:

* Care workers’ pay is at £9.50 per hour (national median) which results in **one of the lowest paid roles** across the economy.
* When evaluating the complexity, content and remuneration in social care, **workers would be paid 39% more (nearly £7000 per year) in equivalent positions** within the NHS, local authorities, and other publicly funded industries.
* **Over one quarter of care workers live in, or are on the brink of, poverty**. Nearly 1 in 10 experienced food insecurity. And around 1 in 8 children of workers were ‘materially deprived’, meaning they may not have access to essential resources such as fresh fruit and vegetables or adequate winter clothing.
* **The number of vacant posts in social care has increased** by 52% in one year and it is now the highest rate since records began in 2012/13, leading to an over-reliance on agency carers and with soaring costs as a consequence.

Providers supporting disabled people are trapped between financial pressures. They want to pay their skilled workforce fairly, yet have limited resources to do so because they are funded by local authorities whose resources are also diminishing. There is a growing gap between commissioning rates and the true costs of provision.

Our asks are simple: **align social care pay to NHS pay bands and fund local authorities accordingly,** and **address the inflationary pressures experienced by the sector with an additional one-off grant offering emergency support for disability and care services.**

We do hope you will be able to support our campaign in some of the following ways:

* Sign a joint letter to the Minister.
* Asking a parliamentary question.
* Agree to meet with VODG members and other parliamentarians to discuss the issues and solutions.
* Sharing supportive social media.

If you are able to ask a parliamentary question, sign the joint letter to the Minister or attend the roundtable meeting please contact kris@healthcommsconsulting.co.uk. The joint letter and template social media have been shared as separate documents attached to our correspondence email.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely, etc.