Letter to local MP

Dear ….,

Thank you for all your work as my MP in this time of crisis. It is much appreciated.

As one of your constituents, I am writing today to ask you to stand up for equality for disabled people and confirm whether you will sign Early Day Motion 521.

Early Day Motion 521 (https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57041/uk-law-on-disabilityselective-abortion) has been tabled by Carla Lockhart MP to allow MPs to show their support for the Abortion (Cleft Lip, Cleft Palate, and Clubfoot) Bill.

Along with many of your constituents, I am shocked that it is currently legal to abort babies through to birth solely because they are diagnosed with either cleft lip, cleft palate, or clubfoot.

This is, in and of itself, disturbing, but even more concerning is that we know it occurs. Official abortion statistics for England and Wales show that abortions on these grounds are happening, and worse, due to underreporting, these figures are likely to be much higher than recorded, according to a report by the Department of Health & Social Care. Cleft lip, cleft palate and clubfoot can, however, all be corrected by surgery, and treatment for clubfoot is successful for the vast majority of patients.

There is no shortage of testimonials on individuals who have been diagnosed with cleft lip, cleft palate or clubfoot and were not held back, including Steven Gerrard, Sir Walter Scott and Dudley Moore (who were born with clubfoot), and Joaquin Phoenix, Carmit Bachar and Tom Burke (who were born with cleft lip).

Parents who have children with these conditions have already spoken out in support of the Bill, pointing out the injustice inherent in UK abortion law that makes provisions to protect the lives of non-disabled children but not the lives of children diagnosed with cleft lip, cleft palate or clubfoot.

As your constituent, I also feel very strongly that disability-selective abortion should not be permitted, and that cleft lip, cleft palate and clubfoot do not constitute grounds to end a human life.

I would therefore urge you to publicly support the Abortion (Cleft Lip, Cleft Palate and Clubfoot) Bill which has already attracted cross-party support across Parliament to ban abortion for cleft lip, cleft palate and clubfoot.

Thank you for your attention and for representing my views in Parliament. I understand MPs are quite busy, yet if you are willing to publicly support this bill, please reply to this email to let me know. This matter is very important to me.

Yours sincerely