Dear [MP’s name]

I am writing to you as a constituent to express my concern about my [son/daughter/family member’s] education as a student at [name of institution].

The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted education at all levels across the country. As a [parent/family member] to a student whose education has been significantly affected, the lack of support for students from the government over the last few months has been frustrating.

[Include any personal details of your family member’s experience in education since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. You may want to write about:

* Any difficulties accessing online resources
* Details of equipment or learning support that can’t be accessed at home
* If they had trouble finding time or space to study
* Any changes to assessments which were stressful or difficult
* How this has affected you as a family]

According to research by the National Union of Students (NUS) 20% of students have been unable to access their education online and 33% of students do not agree that the education they are receiving is of adequate quality. While it is clear that effort has been made to put provision online, it is not acceptable that students like my [son/daughter/family member] are paying thousands of pounds in tuition fees for an education they are not adequately receiving.

Over 500,000 students have now signed petitions calling on Westminster to reimburse tuition fees. NUS has been campaigning for the government to introduce a Student Safety Net which would provide all students with the right to redo this year at no extra cost, or have their tuition fees reimbursed or written off. This has to come from the UK government to ensure that it does not risk the financial sustainability of the higher education sector.

The government has said that students have every right to complain to their universities, but everyone has been affected: as a taxpayer I believe that it is a waste of public money to instruct hundreds of thousands of students to go through a complaints process which is not fit for purpose. Rather than spending so much time and resource on bureaucracy, the government should simply take action to support all students.

The fairest option is to give everyone the option to retake the entire year of their education at no additional cost, or write-off student debt. Access to redo the year must be combined with extended eligibility for maintenance support, to ensure that it is an affordable option for all who choose to do so.

We rely on higher education for our future health workers, our economy and for the research which will defeat the coronavirus. The government must invest in them and invest in the future of our young people: I am concerned it will lose a generation of voters by refusing to support students.

I hope that you agree that the best way to support students is to meet NUS’ call for a Student Safety Net. I look forward to hearing what you plan to do to help students, like my [son/daughter/family member], in your constituency. I would like to see you making your agreement known nationally by writing to the Treasury to express the need for action to support students.

Yours sincerely,

Name(s)