**INSERT UNION NAME & ADDRESS**

RE: Higher Education and Research Bill 2nd Reading

Dear **INSERT NAME OF MP (this should be done in this style “Nancy Astor MP”)**,

**A FEW SENTENCES ABOUT YOUR UNION & WHO YOU ARE.**

**FOR EXAMPLE**:

**If you are new in office/have not met this MP before:**

I am the new **INSERT ROLE** of **INSERT UNION**. As you may know, I represent **XXX** students studying/living in **INSERT CONSTITUENCY**. I am looking forward to working with you during my next year in office and discussing many different issues that students care about. I also wanted to alert you to an important upcoming parliamentary debate.

**If you are entering you 2nd year & know your MP:**

I hope you are well. As you may know I was re-elected as **INSERT ROLE** of **INSERT UNION** for the coming year. I have valued working with you on **INSERT RELEVANT ISSUE** in the past, and so wanted to alert to you an important upcoming parliamentary debate.

**CORE MESSAGE (DELETE THIS TITLE BEFORE SENDING)**

The Government have scheduled the second reading of the Higher Education and Research Bill for this coming Tuesday (19th July). This is a crucial moment to ensure that students’ concerns are represented in parliament as this Bill progresses and I hope you are able to attend on our behalf.

The Higher Education and Research Bill aims to increase market competition in the sector. It seeks to create a complex system for raising tuition fees based on teaching excellence ratings and make it easier for new providers to become universities and allow providers to fail.

We believe that:

1. **It is not in students’ interests to have to pay (more) to access excellent teaching.**

The Bill proposes to link inflationary rises in tuition fees to an institution's performance in a new Teaching Excellence Framework. We don’t believe it is right to put a premium on excellent education, it should be excellent for everyone. We believe the link between tuition fees and teaching excellence should be removed.

1. **It is not in students’ interests to have a system based on market competition.**

In order to expand the higher education market, Government are proposing to lower the barriers to entry for new providers, allow providers to fail and to award “probationary” degree awarding powers from day one of operation. We are extremely concerned that this puts students at high risk of a poor quality experience –and years of their lives they can never get back.

1. **It is for students to define their own interests and to have a seat at the decision making tables.**

A market in higher education is not in students’ interests. The Government wants to put students at the heart of the higher education. We firmly disagree that creating greater competition and market will achieve this. We believe that students have a right to have a say in decisions which affect them – for example, ensuring there is at least a reserved place for a student representative on the governing board of the new Office for Students.

We hope you can attend the debate. Either way, if you would like to meet with us after the 19th July to discuss students’ ideas about the upcoming HE reforms please let me know.

All the best,

**INSERT NAME**