MP name and address

Date:

Dear …….

I am a community pharmacist and owner of (add the name of your pharmacy) at (add the address of your pharmacy). We provide essential pharmaceutical services to over (add approximate number) patients across this closely nit community. I am writing today as a provider to a much-loved service which often feels overlooked and overshadowed by decision makers and those in position of influence.

The public opinion continues to value and love the services we provide, yet our sector continues to feel ignored, dismissed and undervalued. The fact is, that the vast majority of your constituents are likely to have encountered a caring and helpful service is testament of the professionalism of pharmacy teams such as mine and everywhere else in the country. I have attached/enclosed to this letter a sample of the sentiments of our patients and their appreciation for our services. This represents a special place in the hearts of your constituents and pharmacy’s standing in society. The COVID-19 crisis has seen community pharmacy teams respond to a period of unprecedented demand and uncertainty with professionalism, courage and care. Not only have prescription demands exceeded 40% in many cases but our staff, largely comprising parents with young families, have responded with acts of unselfish humility.

With sparse allocations of PPE and the inability to deploy measures of social distancing, pharmacists, technicians, counter assistants and drivers have been forced to operate to the edge of acceptable risk. This has been very arduous for pharmacies like ours to manage. Loyalty and duties of care have been stretched to unimaginable proportions as we pay tribute to pharmacy teams everywhere.

As doctors and other health care providers triage services from the sanctuary of closed doors or even their homes it has been left to pharmacies such as ours to pick up the vacuum this has created in primary care, such as the advice, support and reassurance to thousands of people every day on top of the 1.7M people who visit community pharmacies regularly.

My message in writing to you today is an appeal for you to highlight this lack of recognition and support for community pharmacy teams such as mine to your colleagues and decision-makers in parliament. Pharmacy without fair support and funding cannot even sustain its core role of supply let alone the ability to become a lasting solution to many the demand

pressures facing us in primary, secondary social care. This is how desperate pharmacies such as mine have become since 2016 due to lack of adequate financial support.

As our MP and representative to Parliament I would very much welcome a visit from yourself to our pharmacy, so you can see at first-hand how we are caring for the health and wellbeing needs of this local community.  We are asking for your support in Parliament to showcase the role of pharmacy, not just within the current crisis, but to illustrate how we always go above and beyond to the health and wellbeing of our patients. We welcome you to champion us as part of the front-line healthcare provision in your constituency and to ensure we get the recognition and support we need to survive and keep looking after the health and wellbeing of the community.

We do hope you will visit us soon, and in the meantime, keep well and safe.

Yours sincerely,