[Your address]

[MP’s name]

[Address 1]

[Address 2]

[Address 3]

[Postcode]

 [Date]

Dear [My Labour MP]

As you’ll no doubt be aware, the Higher Education and Research Bill is currently working its way through Parliament. This Bill proposes fundamental changes to our Higher Education system and in my view represents the wrong changes at the wrong time. I therefore strongly agree with the Party’s position to oppose the Bill, but I am writing to you as a constituent to seek reassurance that the Bill will receive proper scrutiny and also that Labour MPs will be putting down amendments, to show how the Party’s vision for Higher Education is different to the Tories. My main areas of concern are around widening access and participation, student rights and protections, student representation and financial support for students. I believe that the following measures, ensured through amendments and suggested by Labour Students, should be proposed. I hope you feel able to support any such amendments and focus on these areas when opposing the Bill:

* The Director for Fair Access to report directly to the Secretary of State and that the annual report is laid before Parliament and to give the Director the power to set targets for providers that are failing to make clear progress. The Office for Students should have the power to refuse access agreements and actual clout
* Retention, success and graduate destinations should be included in the list of transparency conditions and data should be published at subject level to stop strong averages in some areas hiding poor pockets
* The Office for Students should be required to actively target and focus its efforts on parts of the UK where few people go on to study in Higher Education
* Higher Education Institutions should be required to publish to students what they can expect in a range of categories, such as course content, so they can then use CMA and official channels if it doesn’t get delivered
* At the very least providers should be required to publish an institution-wide student charter, if not a charter at course level. A new Code of Practise on Student Information could be a mechanism to achieve change

### Nursing courses and other vocational degrees must fall under such legislation, and Higher Education courses in Further Education must be covered by the [Office of the Independent Adjudicator](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjm5JK2lbzOAhXBcRQKHYZ8A-AQFggdMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.oiahe.org.uk%2F&usg=AFQjCNFHcTHc7FxpaNYlaoejlqXt_2enJg&sig2=7dhfl7puj0mMZ1AAlFoZ7g&bvm=bv.129422649,d.d24), to ensure all students have proper protections

* There is a clear and pressing need for all students to have access to independent advice
* The Bill should ensure student representation on the Board of the Office for Students and on the board of the designated quality body too, to ensure student oversight at all levels
* Student representation on the governing bodies of Higher Education institutions should be required and this should also include material on what is confidential at meetings and what isn’t – student representation and what our representatives can and cannot say shouldn’t be tied up by burdensome interpretations of commercial interest
* Students should be represented on remuneration committees of University employees and this could compliment publication of pay ratios between the highest paid and lowest paid members of staff
* Universities should have a duty to encourage students to register to vote, to increase political engagement and help #AMillionMoreVoices become involved in our democratic processes
* A new clause to prohibit changes to repayment terms and conditions for existing students and graduates

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I hope you can help bring about these changes. If you wish to discuss any of the above further please get in touch with the Labour Students national officers by contacting Kate Dearden, the National Chair, at kate\_dearden@labour.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]