Dear Prime Minister

Fourteen months ago, following Carolyn Harris’ emotional speech about the loss of her young son Martin, the idea of a Children’s Funeral Fund to help bereaved parents was first conceived.

Every year in the UK around 5000 children die. Some are stillborn or die shortly after birth due to complications, some are born with or develop life-limiting illnesses and others die as a result of tragic accidents. Whatever the nature of their death, the fact remains that every year, around 10,000 parents have to face the unimaginable grief of losing a child.

Nobody expects to bury their own child. Nobody sets aside money for this and therefore, when struggling to cope with the worst possible experience they will ever have to face, bereaved parents have the added worry of finding the funds for a funeral they never expected, nor wanted, to be planning.

Last year, the Welsh Labour Government listened. They realised that for a relatively modest amount of money, they could make a considerable difference to bereaved parents in their hour of need. They established a Children’s Funeral Fund, meaning that across Wales, thanks to the additional support from many national and independent undertakers, parents could bury their children, without the added worry of how they were going to afford it. As
well as this, many local authorities across the UK, have also reacted positively and abolished their fees for children’s funerals.

Many times over the last fourteen months, Members have asked the Government to show compassion and follow Wales’ example by introducing a UK-wide Children’s Funeral Fund. Discussions have taken place with Ministers and hopes have been raised on many occasions. However, in the last two budgets, no funding has been forthcoming.

There are many Members, across the House, who support the need for this fund and we write to you today, as one, to ask again for you to consider our plea. Bereaved parents, across the country, need our help. Please let us ensure, that no more parents, face the added uncertainty of debt, when they are already struggling to cope with the cruellest fate life has dealt them.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Harris, MP for Swansea East
Diane Abbott, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington
Debbie Abrahams, MP for Oldham East and Saddleworth
Mike Amesbury, MP for Weaver Vale
Sir David Amess, MP for Southend West
Tonia Antoniazzi, MP for Gower
Clive Betts, MP for Sheffield South East
Mhairi Black, MP for Paisley and Renfrewshire South
Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods, MP for City of Durham
Sir Peter Bottomley, MP for Worthing West
Tracy Brabin, MP for Batley and Spen
Ben Bradshaw, MP for Exeter
Tom Brake, MP for Carshalton and Wallington
Kevin Brennan, MP for Cardiff West
Chris Bryant, MP for Rhondda
Karen Buck, MP for Westminster North
Richard Burden, MP for Birmingham, Northfield
Richard Burgon, MP for Leeds East
Dawn Butler, MP for Brent Central
Ruth Cadbury, MP for Brentford and Isleworth
Dr Lisa Cameron, MP for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow
Alistair Carmichael, MP for Orkney and Shetland
Sarah Champion, MP for Rotherham
Jenny Chapman, MP for Darlington
Vernon Coaker, MP for Gedling
Ann Coffey, MP for Stockport
Yvette Cooper, MP for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford
Ronnie Cowan, MP for Inverclyde
Sir David Crausby, MP for Bolton North East
Mary Creagh, MP for Wakefield
Jon Cruddas, MP for Dagenham and Rainham
Judith Cummins, MP for Bradford South
Alex Cunningham, MP for Stockton North
Jim Cunningham, MP for Coventry South
Nic Dakin, MP for Scunthorpe
Chris Davies, MP for Brecon and Radnorshire
David T.C. Davies, MP for Monmouth
Philip Davies, MP for Shipley
Emma Dent Coad, MP for Kensington
Annaliese Dodds, MP for Oxford East
Stephen Doughty, MP for Cardiff South and Penarth
David Drew, MP for Stroud
Rosie Duffield, MP for Canterbury
Iain Duncan-Smith, MP for Chingford and Woodford Green
Julie Elliott, MP for Sunderland Central
Chris Elmore, MP for Ogmore
Charlie Elphicke, MP for Dover
Chris Evans, MP for Islwyn
Nigel Evans, MP for Ribble Valley
Paul Farrelly, MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme
Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead
Jim Fitzpatrick, MP for Poplar and Limehouse
Caroline Flint, MP for Don Valley
James Frith, MP for Bury North
Gill Furness, MP for Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough
Hugh Gaffney, MP for Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill
Mike Gapes, MP for Ilford South
Ruth George, MP for High Peak
Patricia Gibson, MP for North Ayrshire and Arran
Preet Gill, MP for Birmingham, Edgbaston
Roger Godsiff, MP for Birmingham, Hall Green
Helen Goodman, MP for Bishop Auckland
Richard Graham, MP for Gloucester
Kate Green, MP for Stretford and Urmston
Andrew Gwynne, MP for Denton and Reddish
Louise Haigh, MP for Sheffield, Heeley
David Hanson, MP for Delyn
Harriet Harman, MP for Camberwell and Peckham
Mike Hill, MP for Hartlepool
Sharon Hodgson, MP for Washington and Sunderland West
Imran Hussain, MP for Bradford East
Dan Jarvis, Barnsley Central
Diana Johnson, MP for Kingston upon Hull North
Darren Jones, MP for Bristol North West
Gerald Jones, MP for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney
Helen Jones, MP for Warrington North
Kevan Jones, MP for North Durham
Susan Elan Jones, MP for Clwyd South
Barbara Keeley, MP for Worsley and Eccles South
Stephen Kinnock, MP for Aberavon
Peter Kyle, MP for Hove
Ben Lake, MP for Ceredigion
David Lammy, MP for Tottenham
Ian Lavery, MP for Wansbeck
Karen Lee, MP for Lincoln
Jeremy Lefroy, MP for Stafford
Emma Lewell-Buck, MP for South Shields
Clive Lewis, MP for Norwich South
Ivan Lewis, MP for Bury South
Stephen Lloyd, MP for Eastbourne
Tim Loughton, MP for East Worthing and Shoreham
Caroline Lucas, Brighton Pavilion
Ian Lucas, MP for Wrexham
John Mann, MP for Bassetlaw
Gordon Marsden, MP for Blackpool South
Sandy Martin, MP for Ipswich
Rachael Maskell, MP for York Central
Christian Matheson, MP for City of Chester
Stephen McCabe, MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak
Kerry McCarthy, MP for Bristol East
Siobhan McDonagh, MP for Mitcham and Morden
Stewart McDonald, MP for Glasgow South
Conor McGinn, MP for St Helens North
Jim McMahon, MP for Oldham West and Royton
Anna McMorrin, MP for Cardiff North
John McNally, MP for Falkirk
Johnny Mercer, MP for Plymouth, Moor View
Madeleine Moon, MP for Bridgend
Jessica Morden, MP for Newport East
Stephen Morgan, MP for Portsmouth South
Grahame Morris, MP for Easington
Jared O'Mara, MP Sheffied, Hallam
Melanie Onn, MP for Great Grimsby
Kate Osamor, MP for Edmonton
Albert Owen, MP for Ynys Mon
Teresa Pearce, MP for Erith and Thamesmead
Matthew Pennycook, MP for Greenwich and Woolwich
Jess Phillips, MP for Birmingham, Yardley
Jo Platt, MP for Leigh
Stephen Pound, MP for Ealing North
Yasmin Qureshi, MP for Bolton South East
Faisal Rashid, MP for Warrington South
Jacob Rees-Mogg, MP for North East Somerset
Ellie Reeves, MP for Lewisham West and Penge
Rachel Reeves, MP for Leeds West
Emma Reynolds, MP for Wolverhampton North East
Jonathan Reynolds, MP for Stalybridge and Hyde
Maria Rimmer, MP for St Helens South and Whiston
Gavin Robinson, MP for Belfast East
Lloyd Russell-Moyle, MP for Brighton, Kemptown

Joan Ryan, MP for Enfield North

Naz Shah, MP for Bradford West

Jim Shannon, MP for Strangford

Virendra Sharma, MP for Ealing, Southall

Paula Sherriff, MP for Dewsbury

Tulip Siddiq, MP for Hampstead and Kilburn

Ruth Smeeth, MP for Stoke-on-Trent North

Jeff Smith, MP for Manchester, Withington

Laura Smith, MP for Crewe and Nantwich

Owen Smith, MP for Pontypridd

Alex Sobel, MP for Leeds North West

Dame Caroline Spelman, MP for Meriden

Keir Starmer, MP for Holborn and St Pancras

Jo Stevens, MP for Cardiff Central

Wes Streeting, MP for Ilford North

Mark Tami, MP for Alyn and Deeside

Alison Thewliss, MP for Glasgow Central

Gareth Thomas, MP for Harrow West

Nick Thomas-Symonds, MP for Torfaen

Stephen Timms, MP for East Ham

Justin Tomlinson, MP for North Swindon

Karl Turner, MP for Kingston upon Hull East

Derek Twigg, MP for Halton
Liz Twist, MP for Blaydon

Valerie Vaz, MP for Walsall South

Tom Watson, MP for West Bromwich East

Catherine West, MP for Hornsey and Wood Green

Martin Whitfield, MP for East Lothian

Dr Philippa Whitford, MP for Central Ayrshire

Chris Williamson, MP for Derby North

Sammy Wilson, MP for East Antrim

Daniel Zeichner, MP for Cambridge