**[Your address]**

**[Your address]**

**[Your address]**

**[Your address]**

**[Date]**

**[MP address]**

**[MP address]**

**[MP address]**

**[MP address]**

**[MP address]**

**Dear Mr [MP’s Surname]**

I am a **[insert your position in the pharmacy here]** that currently work in **[insert pharmacy details here]**. I have been in this position for **[number]** years and see myself as part of the pharmacy healthcare profession that delivers invaluable health care to our community and beyond.

I have recently learned that the government plans to cut funding for community pharmacies in England by 6% in October 2016 and I am deeply concerned by the impact these could have on the ability of us to care for our patients. Our negotiating body in England believes that the government intends to make even greater cuts in the following years.

In a letter on 17 December 2015 outlining the funding change, the Department of Health suggested that there are more pharmacies than necessary in some parts of the country and that approximately a quarter will close as a result of these cuts. As you can imagine, as someone who works in a local community pharmacy, this causes me great concern. I find it hard to understand how the NHS is repeatedly telling the public to visit community pharmacies first rather than go to already stretched GPs and/or A&E departments. These very pharmacies, like the one I work in, are under serious threat should these proposed funding cuts go ahead without looking at alternative models of care for patients, backed with appropriate funding.

I am one of **[amount of team members]** working in our pharmacy, all of us living and working locally. However, should the proposed funding cuts go ahead, some (or I) may lose our employment or may even be one of the unfortunate pharmacies that may have to close altogether.

This will mean fewer pharmacies – with fewer staff – left to provide a number of invaluable services; including supplying accurate medicine, advising patients about their prescribed medicines, giving healthy lifestyle advice, helping people to choose appropriate self-care, delivering flu vaccinations **[insert any other professional services your pharmacy does here]** and free delivery of medicines to our vulnerable patients.

Recently one of our patients **[insert the patient query here]**. We always go the extra mile for our patients and I **[insert what you did here]**. I am sure that you will agree that these funding cuts could adversely affect these types of excellent patient care (and pharmacy services) we currently offer to your constituents.

You may be aware of a petition that was set to protest against the government’s proposals and engage them in discussions about future funding models of care and appropriate funding for pharmacy. I personally have also signed the petition (see <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/116943>). [**If you have not signed the petition, sign it or take the aforementioned statement out]**.

As I am one of your constituents, I urge you to raise this matter in parliament and call for a debate on the impact of this damaging funding cut on patients pharmacies like where I work, the impact it will have on other, already stretched services (GP’s and A&E) and many staff working in other local community pharmacy. It is essential that alternative models of care, with appropriate funding, is developed before any changes in the current way of funding to community pharmacies are imposed.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely

**[Sign you letter here]**

**[Name and surname]**