\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 



Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .



My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I live in your area.



I am writing to you because I am worried about the future of The Scottish Assembly.



The Scottish Assembly helps people with a learning disability and

autistic people across Scotland to be involved in politics and decision making – it wants to create an Accessible Parliament where people, who are most often excluded, are supported to have more say over things that affect them directly.



Assembly members can go to national Zoom meetings every Friday, regional hybrid meetings (this means in person and online) every 2-3 weeks, hybrid conferences twice a year and other hybrid meetings and workshops about other important topics that are chosen or prioritised by the members.



Some of these topics have been the Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill, the Assisted Dying Bill (where a few of us gave evidence to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee at The Scottish Parliament), ending non-residential care charges, new Mental Health Law, and many more.



We also have regular opportunities to speak with representatives from the Scottish Government policy teams, Scottish Commissions and Commissioners, Local Councillors, MSPs, MPs and other decision makers and researchers to learn and share our thoughts and opinions about things as individuals living in different parts of Scotland.



People who are part of The Assembly take part as individuals and do not represent other groups or organisations that they are part of. This is what makes The Assembly different and special.



We all get to learn more about how politics works, about political news and what is happening in our communities, our country and around the world in an environment that is safe and supportive. We are all encouraged to take part and share our thoughts and opinions as equals. This is also very important as most of us have never had this chance.



Interactive activities like workshops, gameshows, surveys and quizzes and accessible information help us to take part as active and informed citizens in Local, Scottish, and General elections, consultations, and policy making.



The Assembly has been supporting elected members to be involved in a new way of working which supports people with lived experience to be involved in decision making on national policy called the Leadership Framework.



This Framework has recently come to an end and The Scottish Assembly faces losing more than half of its funding because there is a new rule about how much money projects can apply for.



Without this funding people with a learning disability and autistic people living in different parts of Scotland will not continue to be supported by The Scottish Assembly to have the chance to learn, process and participate in accessible politics.



I am writing to you to ask you for your support to help to make sure that The Scottish Assembly gets continued funding – our vision is to include more and more voices of people with a learning disability and autistic people from all over Scotland, not to exclude them.



Thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*This letter has been written by members of the Assembly and images have been agreed as accessible for all.