Dear Deputy X /Candidate Name, **(Delete as appropriate)**

I hope you are keeping well and that your campaign is going well thus far. I am contacting you to highlight Epilepsy Ireland’s calls for General election candidates which they have recently published at www.epilepsy.ie.

Epilepsy Ireland have asked that candidates commit to working on the issues outlined below (and graphic attached) if elected to the 33rd Dáil:

1. The approval and filling of posts for specialist epilepsy healthcare professionals including consultant neurologists and epilepsy specialist nurses as identified in the HSE’s Model of Care for Epilepsy

2.  Access to new, proven medications and interventions that are available to people with epilepsy in other countries

3.  The development and implementation of a national strategy to reduce the number of preventable epilepsy-related deaths

4. Automatic access to Free Travel for people with epilepsy who are prohibited from driving due to their epilepsy diagnosis

5.  Amending the State Examinations Commission’s Reasonable Accommodations to ensure that students with epilepsy are provided with appropriate accommodations where required in State exams

6.  The full implementation of the Oireachtas Committee on Health recommendations on Sodium Valproate and foetal anti-convulsant syndrome (FACS)

***(In the next paragraph, briefly explain your experience and connection to epilepsy, and link to the calls we have made or outline an issue not listed that is impacting on you. We have included examples of this below in different colours below. Please make sure to delete our examples before sending)***

**As a mother of a child with epilepsy, I can attest to the calls made above. For example, I want to see my son accommodated if he should have a seizure during his leaving cert exams and be given the opportunity to re-sit this at a later date – rather than being forced to repeat the entire year which unfortunately many people with epilepsy have had to do in the past.**

**As a person who was diagnosed with epilepsy as an adult, I lost my driver’s license as a result of my diagnosis. Although I am now back on the road, the issuing of a travel pass for the period that I did not have my license would’ve been of great benefit to me as I tried to maintain my employment.**

**I support Epilepsy Ireland’s calls outlined however I also wish to raise with you the importance of the need for a scheme to be set up to aid people with epilepsy with costs of seizure detection devices. My wife and I purchased such a device for our young son as he has nocturnal seizures. This alerts us in the night when he is having a seizure which gives us great peace of mind because nocturnal seizures can be very dangerous. However, this peace of mind came at a significant cost of €x and I feel that the state should offer some support with this.**

I would very much appreciate if you could come back to me to commit that you will work on these matters if elected and I look forward to hearing from you on same. I would also urge you to publicly declare your support by tagging @EpilepsyIreland on Twitter or [Facebook.](https://www.facebook.com/epilepsy.ie)

I wish you well for the remainder of your campaign and hope that you are willing to work on the behalf of people with epilepsy and their families in ***(County/Constituency)*** if elected to the 33rd Dáil.

Yours sincerely,

***John/Mary Doe***

***Contact Number***

***Full address.***