Dear Deputy/Senator,

I hope you are keeping well. I am writing to you in relation to issues around access to a free travel pass for people with epilepsy.

At the moment, if a person with epilepsy holds a driving license and experiences a breakthrough seizure, they will automatically lose their license for at least a year – until they can demonstrate that they are one year seizure free.

For others living with the condition, they will never be able to drive due to the uncontrolled nature of their condition. However, they can only access a free travel pass via other qualifying payments such as Disability Allowance or Invalidity Pension. Some people will avail of these payments but for many, their condition will not meet the strict assessment for these schemes.

This issue leads to difficulties for people with epilepsy in maintaining employment, education and can lead to a person becoming socially isolated.

***(We recommend that if you have personal experience of this issue, that you use this paragraph to outline how you have been affected and how it has impacted on you).***

Epilepsy Ireland have proposed that:

1. A free travel pass be automatically extended to those who have lost their license due to a seizure for the time they are off the road – due to their long-term health condition.
2. That a direct application route for the Free Travel pass is established so that people can have their eligibility for the benefit assessed.

I would appreciate if you could raise this matter with colleagues and with the relevant Minister to seek to have this issue addressed. As a supporter of Epilepsy Ireland, I believe it is a logical request and one which would hugely benefit people with epilepsy and their families within our constituency.

If you need to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Epilepsy Ireland Advocacy & Communications Manager, Paddy McGeoghegan on pmcgeoghegan@epilepsy.ie.

Yours sincerely,

***Full name***

***Full Address***

***Contact Details***

***(We recommend that you give your elected representative these details as it will highlight to them that this is an issue which is presenting in their local constituency.)***