



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

29 January 2018

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 Ogmere

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 McMahan, MP for Oldham West and Royton

Anna McMorris, 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 Sheffield, 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