



campaigning for free nursing and personal care for all

Draft model letter to MPs/MSPs

Dear

Right to Care Campaign

I am writing to ask your support for an important new campaign, the Right to Care Campaign.

The Right to Care Campaign was launched in November and brings together 20 influential organisations that have agreed to campaign together for the principle that all nursing and personal care should be available free for those who need it wherever in the UK they happen to live.

The Right to Care Campaign will impress upon the Government that there is very strong public support for the implementation of the central recommendation of the Royal Commission on Long Term Care: *that all personal care should be free at the point of use and funded from general taxation.*

The Campaign will also push for a re-evaluation of the narrow definition of free nursing care adopted by the Government which will disqualify many people in need of intensive care, and to re-examine the cash limits that will apply. We will register our concern at the different arrangements for nursing and personal care that are being put in place in different parts of the UK and strongly argue that access to care should be based on need, not on where a person happens to live.

The Right to Care Campaign believes that:

- The recommendations of the Royal Commission on Long Term Care should be implemented in full.
- It is unacceptable to charge older or disabled people for essential personal care – means testing of personal care should be ended.
- The artificial distinction between nursing and personal care should be ended.
- Good quality personal and nursing care should be provided on the basis of need, free at the point of use in all settings.

Please demonstrate your support for the campaign by signing Early Day Motion 351 on the Right to Care Campaign. We would also urge you to write to the Health Minister and to the Treasury, to ask that the funding to implement free nursing and personal care be made available. Any other support that you can give to the campaign would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

The Right to Care Campaign is supported by:

UNISON, Association of Charity Officers, Action on Elder Abuse, Age Concern England, Age Concern Scotland, Alzheimer's Society, Arthritis Care, Carers UK, Coalition on Charging, Counsel and Care, Help the Aged, Leonard Cheshire, MENCAP, National Pensioners' Convention, NHS Support Federation, Patients Association, RADAR, Relatives and Residents Association, RCN, VOICES.