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Do you have a disability or illness that affects your ability to make decisions?

Would you like to...

- have your views listened to?
- be able to nominate someone to make decisions on your medical treatment when you are no longer able to do so?
- give your relatives/friends a right to be involved in decisions when you are no longer able to do so?

Then, please help us to campaign for new legislation by writing to your MP.

We have drafted a sample letter. Please feel free to change it so that it reflects your experiences and concerns.

Date

Your address

Name MP

House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA

Dear, MP

I have [*please state the nature of your disability or illness*] that will affect/affects my ability to make some decisions.

I am writing to ask for your support for new legislation on mental capacity. The current law does not protect my right to make decisions. It also does not allow me to choose who I would like to be involved in decisions about my welfare and health when I am no longer able to make them myself.

Please describe any experiences/problems that you have faced, for example when people have assumed that you cannot make your own decisions about your life, including welfare, medical or financial arrangements. For example:

The Making Decisions Alliance believes that new legislation on mental capacity is urgently needed

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- *You have not been given support to make your own decision about your medical treatment/welfare/financial arrangement.*
- *There may be situations where your input/opinion has been ignored.*

The Government has indicated its support for new legislation when parliamentary time allows. But no legislation has been forthcoming. I hope you are able to provide your support to persuade the Government that the law needs to be reformed urgently.

I hope you will consider writing to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, to express my deep concerns at the slow progress in bringing forward legislation to address this problem. The Government has indicated its support for legislation but no legislation has been forthcoming.

For your information, I wholeheartedly support the Making Decisions Alliance, a consortium of organisations with a deep interest in this issue of mental capacity.

I would be grateful to know your views on this issue and look forward to hearing from you. If you would like to be briefed on the Making Decisions Alliance's campaign, then please contact its Parliamentary Officers, Anthony Noun on 020 7696 5568 or Senay Camgoz on 020 7903 3769.

Yours sincerely

We would be grateful if you could send a copy of your letter and any response that you get to Anthony Noun, Parliamentary Officer, Mencap, 123 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0RT

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