Honourable XX

Office of XX

Address

Ottawa, ON postal code

firstname.lastname.p9@parl.gc.ca

XX, X, 2020

Dear XX,

**Re: Support for Canadian Health Charities during COVID-19**

I am writing you today as a constituent who relies on the Canadian health charity sector and who is at risk of losing the services I need if health charities are not better supported by the federal government during this crucial time.

The Health Charities Coalition of Canada (HCCC) represents 25 Canadian health charities, a $650 million sector of the economy supporting 2,500 employees and 2.9 million patients. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these charities have seen a 50% drop in revenue compared to this time last year. At the same time, demand for services has increased and research initiatives have been put at risk, jeopardizing years of work, hundreds of millions of dollars of investment and most importantly further progress. They have been challenged to navigate this environment with volunteerism put on hold and the vast majority of government programming unfortunately built with restrictive criteria that has left national health charities largely ineligible.

Health charities have all been dealing with these challenges in their own way to try and prevent layoffs through salary reductions, furlough days, vacancies and unpaid leave of absences. Despite these efforts, there have been a significant number of permanent layoffs; upwards of 50% of the workforce in larger charities and even more significant reductions in smaller charities. This has a direct impact on their ability to provide the vital services that Canadians like me rely on.

These health charities are approaching the federal government, seeking support based on the principles that the government has established in the development of emergency funding programs to date. **It is in this vein that we are seeking the government’s support for up to $28 million per month, so that national health charities can support Canadians living with disease and continue to fund vital research**.

The revenue impacts health charities have experienced because of COVID-19, has left them with a shortfall of more than $28 million per month. This is why I am asking the federal government to support them by providing monthly assistance. Charities’ needs should reduce each month as fundraising capacity is increased, COVID-19 physical distancing is loosened and as the economy begins to open back up. This support is short-term in nature, but flexible depending on government priorities, fiscal need and economic conditions as is the case for the suite of government programs announced and implemented to-date.

I am a Canadian who accesses the services of our health charities. People like me across Canada who are living with complex and debilitating conditions and illnesses rely on these programs and services. As the situation continues, the ability for our health charities to provide seamless and uninterrupted care is becoming more and more limited. My health charity has been there for me when I have needed them most. I do not know what I would have done without their care and support.

I urge you to bring these issues to the attention of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet. Collectively, we need your support in order to ensure that all Canadians can continue to be able to access the services they depend on.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

INSERT NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS