Dear [candidate’s name]

My name is [your name] and I am a constituent of [constituency name]. I am writing to you as one of the candidates standing at the General Election in my local area to ask you to support PSPA’s #WeCare campaign and to commit to supporting carers of people living with PSP &CBD if you are elected to Parliament this July.

It’s estimated that 10,000 people in the UK live with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) and Corticobasal Degeneration (CBD). PSP & CBD are rare, terminal neurological conditions that progressively impact balance, movement, vision, speech and cognition. Right now, there are no treatments and no cure for PSP or CBD. PSPA is the only charity supporting people with PSP & CBD in the UK.

Many people living with PSP & CBD struggle to get an accurate and timely diagnosis; 1 in 3 wait more than a year to be referred to a neurologist, and 34% wait more than a year after seeing a neurologist to get an accurate diagnosis, with fewer than half of people living with PSP & CBD getting an accurate diagnosis initially. Even once diagnosed, they struggle to find specialists who understand their condition and to get access to the health and care services they need.

[Explain a little of your personal experience – are you living with PSP or CBD, or are you a carer or family member of somebody who has or had one of the conditions? When were you/they diagnosed? How has the condition affected your life? Try to keep this concise e.g. a few sentences or a short paragraph.]

As with many rare conditions, unpaid carers are a lifeline for people living with PSP & CBD. Family members and friends become experts in their loved one’s condition, bridge the gaps between different health and care services, and provide hours of care and support every week. It’s estimated that unpaid carers provide more than £162 billion worth of care a year.

Despite this, carers of people living with PSP & CBD face significant challenges; from balancing caring with working, getting regular breaks and respite from caring, getting adequate financial support and being supported by the health and care system.

[Explain a little of your personal experience – have you, or your carers, experienced these challenges yourselves? What was the impact on you? How did this make you feel? Try to keep this concise e.g. a few sentences or a short paragraph.]

I’m supporting PSPA’s #WeCare campaign to raise awareness of PSP & CBD, which is calling for improved support for the unpaid carers, family and friends who are such a lifeline for people living with PSP & CBD.

PSPA is supporting calls to:

* increase Carer’s Allowance
* introduce a new payment for older carers
* give carers a legal right to respite breaks
* improve how carers are treated by our health and care system.

As one of my local candidates, if you are elected at the General Election, I ask you to support PSPA’s #WeCare campaign and commit to supporting these measures to improve support for carers of people living with PSP & CBD, and to working with PSPA towards a better future for everybody affected by the condition.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[your name]

[your address]