*Covering letter to send with Peers, with Briefing Notes*

*It’s best to personalise the covering letter – write it in your own words. For example:*

Dear ,,,,,,,

I am writing to you about the Health and Care Bill that is currently going through Parliament and which the government expects to be enacted by April 2022.

I am very concerned that if passed, this Bill will further fragment the NHS in England into around 40 Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), open publicly funded services even further to profit-seeking private sector companies, and lead to cuts, closures and rationing of health services.

My concerns include that, if enacted, the Bill

* has been hailed as ending the market in NHS services but it does nothing of the sort. Instead, it will turn the NHS into a *deregulated* market.
* repeals the legal requirement to assess the care needs of patients *before* they are discharged from hospital, despite existing and severe pressures on community care.
* requires each ICS to develop its own Constitution, further fragmenting the NHS.
* gives no certainty about the provision of emergency services when required by patients who are not registered with an ICS, raising concerns about possible delays in treatment.
* gives extensive new powers to the Secretary of State, including new opportunities to intervene at all stages in local decisions about service reconfigurations, and
* will do nothing to improve the crisis in social care.

I attach a briefing giving fuller details in case this is useful. It has been written by Keep Our NHS Public, of which I am a member.

I would welcome any discussion with you about the Bill, and I urge you to add your voice to those who oppose it.

Yours etc,

Name

Address