*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 aims to be enacted by April 2022, although formal implementation has now been delayed until July 2022.

I am very concerned that if passed, this Bill will further fragment the NHS in England into around 40 Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), will 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.
* fails to ensure that emergency services will be provided for every person present within an ICS’s geographical area. This has previously been a requirement for CCGs.
* 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 crises in social care, mental health or staffing.

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