

SAMPLE COPY – PROVINCIAL LETTER TEMPLATE

Month X, 200X

John Smith, MPP

Address Line 1

City, Province X1X 1X1

Dear Mr. Smith:

As a member of your constituency and someone who has been fighting against a life-threatening disease called myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), I would like to call your attention to a serious health care issue affecting your riding and over one hundred men and women across Ontario – access to a life-saving medication called Exjade.

Stopping MDS from claiming my life is a constant battle. As with other anemia-related diseases, I must have frequent blood transfusions – in my case, every XX (insert number) weeks. Although the transfusions help me manage my disease, they also cause a build up of excess iron in my blood. This condition, called iron overload, can lead to life-threatening iron toxicity if untreated, resulting in damage to key organs and even premature death.

What most people don't know – even those closest to me – is that right now, I am fighting another battle for access to a drug called Exjade. Exjade treats iron overload and has helped sustain my life for nearly XX (insert number) years now. It is this battle that I am asking for your help to win. In fact, hundreds of lives in this province depend on our victory.

Exjade, a tablet that is dissolved in a glass of water, is the first new treatment for iron overload in this country in 40 years. In that time, there has been but one treatment available for this condition, called Desferal, which while effective, is delivered through painful daily infusions lasting between 8 to 12 hours. You can imagine the physical and psychological toll this treatment takes on patients, like me. To be honest, it is often unbearable.

You may not be surprised to hear that many MDS patients can't tolerate the onerous routine given our health challenges, but it might shock you to learn that many of us are left with no treatment option because we can't afford Exjade. Before any more lives are lost, we need help to access this improved treatment option in Ontario.

Mr. Smith, I urge you to join our fight – right here in your own constituency and in the Ontario Legislature. Exjade is approved for use in this country, and yet, few of us can afford to pay for it out of our own pockets and must rely on provincial funding to cover our drug costs.

I would like to meet with you to discuss the effects of iron overload and access to Exjade on behalf MDS patients in our province whose lives could depend on this new treatment. I can be reached at XXX-XXX-XXXX or at (insert email address).

Yours sincerely,
Name