**{YOUR FULL ADDRESS}**

**{YOUR POSTCODE}**

**{DATE}**

Dear **{MP NAME}**,

My name is **{YOUR NAME}** and I am a constituent of **{**[**FIND YOUR CONSTITUENCY ONLINE**](https://members.parliament.uk/)**}**.

I am writing to you about a survey carried out by Epilepsy Action of women and girls with epilepsy about the information they have received around the risks of taking some epilepsy medicines during pregnancy.

While the risks around taking valproate in pregnancy have been known for some years, some other epilepsy medicines also pose a risk if taken during pregnancy.

A 2021 safety review of epilepsy medicines used during pregnancy carried out by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) showed that a number of epilepsy medicines were linked with an increased risk of birth abnormalities if taken during pregnancy, including carbamazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin and topiramate.

However, not enough has been done to make women and girls with epilepsy aware of these risks.

**Epilepsy Action’s survey found that 33% of women taking carbamazepine, topiramate,** **pregabalin, phenytoin, or phenobarbital** didn’t know they increase the risk of physical birth abnormalities (if taken during pregnancy).

In addition, **31% of women have not had a discussion with a healthcare professional** about the risks associated with taking epilepsy medicines during pregnancy.

You can see the full survey results here [LINK]

As my MP, I am asking you to support the work of Epilepsy Action to ensure that action is taken so that:

* All women and girls with epilepsy are able to access pre-conception counselling services
* MHRA and NHS ensure that the risks of taking all epilepsy medications are fully communicated to women and girls with epilepsy to allow them to make an informed choice about their treatment
* Research is carried out on all epilepsy medications to fully understand the impact of their use during pregnancy

I would be very grateful if you could raise these points with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Steve Barclay.

Please keep me informed of any progress made, and contact Epilepsy Action on [campaigns@epilepsy.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@epilepsy.org.uk) if you need any further information.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,