**URGENT ACTION –**

**Defibrillator (Availability) Bill 2018**

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR MP –**

Maria Caulfield MP has got her Defibrillator (Availability) Bill 2018 back to parliament. The Bill has had its First Reading (19 December 2018) and is due for its Second Reading on Friday 25 January 2019, and will be published shortly (Bill 308). Please write to your MP, circulate and encourage others to write letters to their MP's to get support for the Bill – (draft below).

DRAFT LETTER TO YOUR MP:

YOUR MP

House of Commons XXXXXX@Parliament.uk

**DEFIBRILLATOR (AVAILABILITY) BILL - Saving lives following Cardiac Arrest**

Dear xxxxxxx,

I am writing to seek your support for the Defibrillators (Availability) Bill 2018, which

Maria Caulfield MP has introduced under the 10 minute rule and which is due for a

Second Reading on Friday, January 25th 2019.

<https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/defibrillatorsavailability.html>

Defibrillators (Availability) Bill 2017-19

The Bill aims to save hundreds of lives each year by requiring:

* provision of defibrillators in schools, leisure, sports and other public facilities
* provision for the training of persons to operate defibrillators
* funding the acquisition, installation, use and maintenance of defibrillators

Defibrillators give high energy electric shocks to the heart, through the chest wall, to someone who has collapsed following a cardiac arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of premature death, but immediate CPR and defibrillation saves many lives. SCA occurs because the electrical rhythm that controls the heart is replaced by a chaotic disorganised rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (VF). Seconds count, and ambulance services may not arrive quickly enough to resuscitate most victims. Bystander use of a defibrillator can save many lives.

* Estimated annual deaths from cardiac arrest around 60,000/year in the UK.
* Fewer than 1 person in 10 survives when the SCA occurs out of hospital.
* CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) significantly increases survival chances if performed promptly.
* AEDs provided in public places can be safely used by untrained members of the public while waiting for an ambulance.

Please support this Bill, which will prevent many premature deaths.

Yours sincerely (YOUR NAME)