Dear [INSERT NAME OF MP HERE]

I am writing to you to raise your awareness of the infant mortality of Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID). SCID is a life-threatening condition that without early diagnosis and treatment results in death within the first few months of life. Inclusion in the Newborn Screening test would enable early detection, diagnosis and lifesaving treatment for these babies.

At a federal government level, the Standing Committee on Screening (SCoS) has endorsed SCID to proceed to a detailed review to be considered for inclusion in the Newborn Screening Program in all state and territories. SCID Screening also fits with the priorities of the Rare Disease Action Plan, adopted by the federal government in February 2020.

SCID screening costs less than $10 per child and a pilot program running in NSW will conclude in August 2020. Funding should be made available for routine inclusion of this lifesaving testing into newborn screening in all states and territories. Without screening the journey to diagnosis is often long and tumultuous and stressful for both the child and family, with most children with SCID passing away before reaching two (2) years of age.

**As a matter of urgency, I ask you to ensure the funding for this important study continues until the Standing Committee on Screening endorses inclusion of screening for SCID in national Newborn screening program in all states.**

Additionally, I request that the government to introduce the inclusion of screening for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID) into the existing Newborn Screening (Guthrie test) to reduce preventable infant mortality. This is already standard practice in New Zealand, most US states and other OECD countries.

Regards,

[SIGN YOUR NAME]