[TD NAME & DETAILS HERE – OR ADDRESS YOUR LETTER TO THE CONSTITUENCY OFFICE OF YOUR TD]

Houses of the Oireachtas

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin

DO2 XR20

[DATE HERE]

Dear [NAME]

**Cost of treatment for Haemochromatosis**

I am writing to you as our representative TD, to ask you to work with the Government, the Department of Health and the HSE to waive the unfair and inequitable cost of treatment for haemochromatosis for patients who do not have a Medical Card or private health insurance.

Haemochromatosis is Ireland’s most common genetic disorder and if untreated or undiagnosed can cause significant harm, where iron levels can build up in the body, affecting the liver, heart and pancreas. A toxic build up of iron in the body over time can cause liver disease, cancer, heart diseases, diabetes, chronic fatigue, joint pain and mental health issues. If haemochromatosis is diagnosed and treated early, people affected by haemochromatosis can manage their condition and live a normal life. Treatment is simple, through blood donation or phlebotomy.

When patients are first diagnosed, they face a €80 per venesection bill (and in some cases patients will need weekly venesections to bring their iron levels down). Treatment can become very costly and unaffordable for patients.

[PLEASE GIVE YOUR PERSONAL STORY OR JOURNEY THROUGH HAEMOCHROMATOSIS HERE]

I hope you will advocate for patients like me and work to waive the unfair and unjust €80 charge for venesection treatment (which is necessary and life-saving treatment for haemochromatosis sufferers like me).

Yours Sincerely

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[YOUR DETAILS HERE – NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL IF YOU HAVE ONE]

For further information on the work of the Irish Haemochromatosis Association, the only registered charity in Ireland, supporting haemochromatosis patients and their families, visit www.haemochromatosis-ir.com