Dear MLA FIRSTNAME LASTNAME,

I am writing to recommend improvements to primary care access in New Brunswick, considering there are approximately 44,000 people in our province without a primary care provider and many others without timely access to their own primary care provider.

My priorities are:

• More access points to primary healthcare to help me avoid going unnecessarily to busy Emergency Rooms and walk-in clinics (including the ability to utilize virtual care without fees).

2. A valid Medicare card should be all that is needed for me to access publicly-funded basic primary care and laboratory and diagnostic tests when medically necessary.

3. Extend coverage of Medicare funding to cover basic primary care provided by independent Nurse Practitioners outside of the Regional Health Authorities allowing them to offer their services without fees beyond health authority positions.

4. Remove the user fees for the laboratory and diagnostic tests ordered by independent Nurse Practitioners.

5. Provide referral numbers to independent Nurse Practitioners so that they can directly refer patients to specialists when medically necessary.

Government’s policy decisions are preventing me from accessing medically necessary  
diagnostic investigations when these tests are ordered by independent Nurse Practitioners. It is my understanding that due to the costly fees that are imposed on these private providers, I am no longer able to access tests that I medically benefit from and am entitled to. This creates unacceptable barriers to my care and infringes on my rights as a patient as per the Hospital Services Act. The Hospital Services Act specifies that it is my right to access these medically necessary services whether it is ordered by a physician or a Nurse Practitioner, independent of where the health consultation took place.

Thank you,

YOURFIRSTNAME YOURLASTNAME

YOURADDRESS

YOURPHONENUMBER