**Insert date**

**Senator/MP name**  
**Address**

Dear **Senator/MP**

***Urgent call to stop the repeal of Medevac provisions***

The recently-returned government headed by Prime Minister Scott Morrison wants to repeal key elements of the *Home Affairs Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Act 2019* that provided access to urgent medical care for people in offshore detention. Lives depend on stopping the repeal of these provisions.

The ‘**Medevac** Bill’, passed into law in February 2019, was designed to ensure that people held in offshore detention and who are assessed by two or more doctors as requiring medical care, are transferred to Australia so they can access urgent treatment.

**Medevac** measures remain necessary because the Australian government has repeatedly failed to take the action medical evidence demands for the proper care of those in offshore detention. Medical facilities in Papua New Guinea (Manus) and Nauru are inadequate.

Offshore detention has done serious harm to the physical and mental health of detainees, particularly children. In December 2018, Doctors Without Borders reported mental health suffering on Nauru was among the most severe it had seen around the world. Of the 208 people it treated, 124 had suicidal thoughts, and 63 attempted suicide.   
  
There have been 12 tragic deaths in offshore detention in the last five years, mostly by suicide.

Since the May 2019 election result the need for the **Medevac** law is even greater. There has been a reported spike in the number of attempted suicides and self-harm on Manus and Nauru because of the hopeless despair caused by long-term detention with no end in sight.

Contrary to the government’s alarmist and reckless statements the **Medevac** legislation hasn’t caused a flood of transfers, though it has exposed the lengths this government is prepared to take to continue the cruelty.

Your vote for the **Medevac** Bill has already improved the urgent transfer and treatment of critically ill detainees on Manus and Nauru. Your decision was humane and widely supported.

*“Millions of Australians supported the Medevac legislation out of their concern for the welfare of people held in Manus and Nauru who are not able to get access to the critical medical and mental health care they need.*” – Paul Power, CEO of the Refugee Council of Australia

Offshore processing has caused significant mental and physical damage to innocent people. The government and Parliament should not only support the **Medevac** Bill, but work towards ending offshore detention altogether.

Please stand firm in your support for the **Medevac** law and help end the cruel, inhumane and dangerous impasse created by permanent offshore processing detention.

Yours sincerely,

**Insert your name**