[Date]

The Honorable [First Name Last Name]

United States [Senate or House of Representatives]

[Address]

[City, State Zip]

Dear [Senator/Representative] [Last Name]:

As your constituent and a supporter of Cure SMA, a national organization that represents individuals with a rare neuromuscular disease known as spinal muscular atrophy (SMA**)**, **I write to request an in-person or virtual meeting while you are in the state for the August congressional recess** to discuss SMA and the SMA community’s legislative priorities.

SMA is an inherited neurodegenerative disease that affects the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord and impacts the muscles used for activities such as breathing, eating, crawling, and walking. SMA impacts 1 in 11,000 births in the U.S. If both parents are SMA carriers, every child they have together has a 25% chance of being diagnosed with SMA, regardless of race, ethnicity, and gender. [**Include 1-2 sentences describing your connection to SMA. Bold-face the type.]**

To commemorate *SMA Awareness Month* (August), individuals and families with SMA are meeting with their elected leaders throughout the month to increase knowledge about SMA and the issues facing the SMA community. Thanks to past investments and policies enacted by Congress, the SMA community now has multiple SMA treatments that are helping to slow or stop future degeneration associated with SMA. However, because these treatments do not cure or reverse disease symptoms, significant unmet needs remain for children and adults with SMA across all ages and disease stages. As a Member of Congress, you can help address this unmet need by supporting additional rare disease research and programs.

I know your schedule is very demanding, especially when you are in the state during a recess. If you are unable to meet directly, I hope you will make available your local staff to meet with me virtually or in-person. To arrange a meeting, your staff can contact me at [insert your phone number and email address].

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to updating you and your office on recent SMA progress and the ongoing needs of individuals with SMA and their families.

Sincerely,

[Your First Name Last Name]

[Your Address}

[Your City, State Zip]

[Your Phone]

[Your Email]