Dear

**Votes for Life bill – 23rd February 2018**

I am writing to ask you to support Glyn Davies MP in the second reading of his Votes for Life bill, which is scheduled for 23rd February 2018.

As you know, the pledge to grant votes for life to British citizens resident abroad was included in the 2010 and 2015 Conservative manifestos, and is even more relevant with Chris Skidmore’s launch of the Democratic Engagement Plan which aims to tackle democratic exclusion, outlines plans to increase participation by under-registered groups, and identifies barriers faced by specific demographics. 2018 is also the year in which we - as a democracy - are celebrating the centenary of women's right to vote.

"Votes for Life" is a critical issue for UK citizens resident abroad and for democracy itself. It is estimated that there are over one million Britons overseas who have lost their voting rights. Being denied the right to vote in recent general elections has had a huge impact on the lives of long-term non-resident British citizens. There are many democracies around the world who allow their overseas citizens to vote and some even have specific constituencies solely representing those citizens. Surely the Mother of Parliaments should do the same?

Many British citizens living abroad still have close family ties to the UK and many still own property and/or pay taxes there. Those who have contributed to the wealth of the UK are quite rightly angry and concerned at being denied their democratic right to vote.

I am therefore writing to urge you to support Glyn Davies' bill.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Yours sincerely