The Member for [insert]

The Hon [insert] MP

[insert address]

[email]

[insert Date]

Dear [insert],

I am writing regarding the federal government’s decision to prevent private health fund rebates on complementary therapies, especially in relation to Bowen Therapy. I am a Bowen Therapist and many of my clients claim a health fund rebate for this gentle and effective modality. As Bowen Therapy has been part of the private health insurance landscape for some time now, I have a great fear that many will cut back on treatment once they are unable to claim a rebate from their insurance. Many of my clients have sought help from multiple modalities such as physiotherapy, osteopathy and chiropractic and have only found relief with Bowen Therapy. It concerns me greatly that they may now feel compelled to give up what has worked so well for them. Most of the therapies proposed for cutting are used in a preventative way – does it really make sense to cut preventative measures only to spend more in the future trying to “fix” something that didn’t need to be? While it may make the budget look good before the next election, this is false economy and will in the long-term cost more.

Further, it concerns me that this is going to have a very real negative impact on the community and the economy. Most who work in complementary therapies are small business people, either sole traders or small clinics. These changes could decimate the industry, cutting people’s incomes, reducing GST receipts and income tax paid, and leading to practitioners spending less in their local communities. Many do volunteer work or run special clinics for the disabled or those with cancer and those things may now suffer. And many complementary health practitioners are women, so this is a real attack on women in business.

I urge you to discuss this with the health minister, the Honourable Greg Hunt, and petition for the retention of our current level of payments. Our health is too valuable for cost-cutting. This will very much influence my voting at the next election.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

[insert name]

[insert your address]