

PE1841/J

Monica Lennon MSP submission of 10 February 2021

I am backing the petition to allow a designated visitor into care homes. Time is running out for thousands of residents and their families. I believe we need urgent action, and if Scottish Ministers continue to drag their heels, I have made a commitment to introduce legislation from the Scottish Labour benches.

All opposition parties have given strong backing to the Care Home Relatives Scotland Group, however, the time for action is long overdue.

People living in care homes continue to be the forgotten victims of the pandemic. Ten months on, it is beyond cruel that relatives are locked out and, in some cases, being denied window visits.

Many other countries around the world have facilitated safe visiting and family contact, using PPE and infection control procedures.

Designated caregivers, whether they are family or friends, are vital partners in care and that role becomes even more necessary when care homes are short-staffed.

Last September, the Parliament supported my motion that commended the Ontario Bill, which is a legal framework we could adopt in Scotland.

An Anne's Law would make a difference to thousands of people across Scotland, and it means a lot to me. Anne Duke is my constituent, and I pay tribute to her dedicated husband Campbell and daughter Natasha for their courage and dignified campaign.

Natasha's petition has received significant backing because people recognise that the human rights of care home residents have been ripped up.

I commend the Care Home Relatives Scotland Group and urge the Parliament to support this petition.