

**PLEASE AMEND TO REFLECT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES (make as many amends as you like!)**

**Send to your own MP – find their email address here** <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

Copy to Frances O’Grady, General Secretary, TUC here: [gs@tuc.org.uk](mailto:gs@tuc.org.uk)

Copy to Kate Hudson, CWU Head of Equality, Education & Development here: [learn@cwu.org](mailto:learn@cwu.org)

X November 2020

**By email**

Dear (enter your MP name here)

**The recent announcement about the Union Learning Fund**

I’m writing to ask you to contact the Secretary of State for Education to raise my concerns about his department’s decision to cut all the funding for the Union Learning Fund (ULF) from April of next year. I think the decision is especially surprising as it comes so soon after the Prime Minister’s announcement of a new Lifetime Skills Guarantee.

[Tell your story here! Write a paragraph setting out things like:

- Who you are
- Where you work (employer / part of the country)
- What union learning you have undertaken (be specific – it’s especially important to say if you’ve done entry level, level one, two or three courses or ESOL or an apprenticeship, as these are particularly important to the government)
- The difference that union learning has made to you – do you have better confidence? New skills? Got a promotion or a new job? Is it the first qualification you’ve achieved?
- How you got into union learning – was there a brilliant rep from your union who helped and supported you? Would you have done a college course on your own? Did your employer support your learning?
- What are you going to do next? How has union learning helped you build a better future?]

[OPTIONAL: If you went to a big union learning centre or project in your area, tell your MP about it. Explain what it does and who it is for. Maybe tell your MP how many learners you had last year. Then finish with something like “with this cut, its future is in jeopardy.”]

Union learning reaches workers [like me], who might not otherwise have got back into learning. There were more than 200,000 learners last year, and it’s open to union members and non-members alike. [I wouldn’t have gone back to college to take a course on my own – it was the support of reps in my workplace that got me into workplace learning.] Employers are clear that support from union learning reps and the Union Learning Fund boost take-up of training and skills development.

It’s crucial that the UK helps workers retrain and reskill to take on the jobs of the future – especially in the middle of this recession caused by the pandemic. The Union Learning Fund supports workplace learning projects that help meet this aspiration and fulfil the government’s adult skills priorities.

Please ask the Secretary of State for Education to reconsider his decision and continue to fund the Union Learning Fund.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Your name goes here

Cc: Frances O'Grady, TUC

Cc: Kate Hudson, CWU