Dear (Constituency MSP & Regional List MSP)

I write in support of the HE Governance Bill currently laid before Parliament and going through Stage 1 at Parliament’s Education & Culture Committee.

I am a member of the EIS which is a member-led trade union that has a long standing policy of seeking to improve university governance by making governing bodies more transparent, more collegiate and more independent from senior university managers. The EIS believes that the HE Governance Bill can empower governing bodies to improve governance by providing better leadership, better scrutiny and better impartiality. I also believe that these improvements will bring about better universities for current and future students, staff and the wider community.

As you will be aware, the provisions of the Bill will effectively require the Chairs of all University Governing Bodies to be elected, it will also lead to two additional members of staff to each Governing Body (to be nominated via recognised trade unions) and additional students. These measures will allow for greater scrutiny and transparency. The Bill will also strengthen academic boards (e.g. Senates) by making them more academicly focussed, more collegiate and be more independent of the senior management team. Finally, the Bill also strengthens academic freedom.

I am concerned that these potential tangible improvements that could arise from the Bill are being lost in a cacophony of opposition from university leaders, many of whom have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo.

I am writing to ask you to support the HE Governance Bill.

Yours sincerely