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### **Universal Health Coverage and the Elderly:**

The United Nations High Level Meeting on this issue, in September 2023, is very welcome. Achieving universal health coverage is one of the UN sustainable development goals that the United Kingdom and other developed countries have pledged to meet by 2030. I know that the universal health coverage goal includes financial risk protection; access to quality essential health-care services; access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines; and vaccines for all.

I am concerned that the international community is not on track to achieve universal health coverage by the 2030 target. A draft UN document, prepared for the meeting, advises that, at the current pace of progress towards achieving universal coverage, up to one-third of the world's population will remain underserved by 2030. The UN Secretary-General has said that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other ongoing crises has hindered progress.

I note that the Government has confirmed that the high-level meeting will be attended by UK Ministers. I believe that the United Kingdom has a huge part to play on the international stage in the campaign to achieve universal health coverage.

Ensuring universal health coverage is vital to our collective human future. It is important that the meetings succeed and result in a political declaration that member states can agree and properly implement. I hope to see genuine global progress made on universal health coverage at the summit and I assure constituents that I will be following any developments closely.

**Marie Rimmer CBE, MP**

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