

Richard Graves

To: rfan@legco.gov.hk

cc:

Subject: patriotism and Article 23

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Dear Ms. Fan,

I am an American lawyer living in Hong Kong, and I recently became alarmed about the government's course implementing legislation under Article 23 of the Basic Law.

I note the following: both the Law Society and the Bar Association have publicly stated that the government's proposed Article 23 legislation is more restrictive than the requirements of Article 23.

I have a question:

Who says that, in order to be patriotic to China, one must support Article 23 legislation that is more restrictive than what Article 23 requires?

To me, this is a misguided notion of "patriotism". This reminds me of a position publicly put forth during America's Vietnam war years: To be anti war is to be anti American. Of course, now virtually all Americans know that was rubbish.

I believe that the interests of China and Hong Kong would be better served if the Hong Kong government 1) proposed Article 23 legislation that fulfilled the requirements of Article 23 but went no further, and 2) conducted wide public consultation on the specific text before introducing it to the Legislative Council.

I would appreciate your consideration.

Regards,

Richard Graves

temporarily residing in Hong Kong, from Seattle, Washington, USA