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2 November 2005

Dr York CHOW Yat-ngok, SBS
Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
8/F, West Wing
Central Government Offices
11 Ice House Street
Hong Kong

Dear Dr CHOW,

**Bills Committee on
Certification for Employee Benefits (Chinese Medicine)
(Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2005**

On behalf of the Bills Committee, I am writing to convey to you the concerns of members regarding the recognition of listed Chinese Medicine Practitioners (CMPs).

In studying the Bill, some members have expressed concern that while listed CMPs are allowed to practise Chinese medicine, they are not accorded the same recognition as registered CMPs in giving certification and conducting medical examination and treatment for the purposes of entitlement to certain employees' benefits under the Employment Ordinance, Employees' Compensation Ordinance and the Pneumoconiosis (Compensation) Ordinance. Members note that it is the Administration's long-term objective that all practising CMPs in Hong Kong are registered CMPs and there are channels for listed CMPs to become registered. Members consider that the crux of the issue is how to assist listed CMPs to become registered.

As the issue is outside the scope of the Bill, members have suggested that the issue be referred to the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services for consideration. Members have also requested the Administration to give an undertaking during the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill that it will study the issue and provide the Panel, say, in six months' time with a paper on measures that the Administration is undertaking/will undertake to assist listed CMPs to become registered. Members have instructed that their views be relayed to you directly, since the issue is under your purview.

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As the Bill Committee will next meet on 2 December 2005, I should be grateful if you could forward to me, via e-mail to shcheung@legco.gov.hk **by 26 November 2005**, your bilingual reply for circulation to members.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Sharon TONG)
Clerk to Bills Committee

c.c. Secretary for Economic Development and Labour
Commissioner for Labour (Attn: Mrs Jenny CHAN)