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**By Fax (2882 0099)**  
20 December 2007

Mr Henry TANG, GBS, JP  
The Chief Secretary for the Administration  
12/F, West Wing  
Central Government Offices  
Hong Kong

Dear Mr TANG,

**Panel on Welfare Services**

**Subcommittee on Elderly Services**

At its meeting on 18 December 2007, the Subcommittee on Elderly Services has examined the financial assistance and support services provided for the poor elderly. Members have expressed concern, among other things, that the requirement for applications for the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) to be made on a household basis might have affected the eligibility of some poor elderly. For instance, elders cannot apply for CSSA on their own if their family members decline to make the statement on non-provision of financial support or provide documents to prove that their income is unable to support their parents even though they are living together. Members are of the view that the Government should allow the elderly CSSA applicants to make self-declaration of the financial support provided by their family members and to apply for CSSA on an individual basis.

In order to provide practical assistance for the poor elderly, the Subcommittee strongly requests the Administration to review and relax the requirement for elders to apply for CSSA on a household basis.

On behalf of the Subcommittee, I am writing to convey to you the concern and request made by members, with the earnest hope that your goodself could give personal attention to the matter.

I look forward to your early reply.

(Frederick FUNG)  
Chairman to Subcommittee

c.c. Mr John TSANG, JP (Fax No. : 2840 0569)  
Financial Secretary

Mr Matthew CHEUNG, GBS, JP (Fax No. : 2537 3539)  
Secretary for Labour and Welfare