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The Hong Kong Medical Association

FOUNDED IN 1920-INCORPORATED IN 1960 AS A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE  
MEMBER OF WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND CONFEDERATION OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS IN ASIA & OCEANIA

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梁麗月美女士

20 July 2010

The Secretary

Bills Committee on Food Safety Bill

Legislative Council

Dear Sir,

Response to the Food Safety Bill

In principle, we support the Food Safety Bill, especially after the melamine tainted milk powder incident and the repeated detection of malachite green from imported aquatic products, when tracing of the target food sources was so difficult, if not impossible. We also noticed that this bill does not cover the food manufacturing industry, probably because this industry is regulated under other legislations, as suggested in the Legislative Council Brief. We urge the government to review these regulations, if they exist, to ensure that they are sufficiently stringent, as compared to this captioned bill.

We also notice that this drafted bill provides the Director with a substantial power in granting registration, granting exemptions, refusing applications for registration, imposing conditions of registration, renewal and revoking registrations, and issuing of food safety orders etc. While we support that the director should be given enough power to protect food safety, we find that there is insufficient provision in this bill to require the Director to disclose essential information to the public especially those about refusal of applications of renewal of registration, revocation of registration, information concerning the issuance of food safety orders etc. The information would help to alert the public to stop consuming those unsafe food products which are already in their possession; even before any recall procedures.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. TSE Hung Hing  
President

The Hong Kong Medical Association

c.c. Food & Health Bureau

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