

(Translation)

**Motion on  
“Providing support for family carers”  
moved by Hon WONG Sing-chi  
at the Legislative Council meeting  
of Wednesday, 18 November 2009**

**Motion as amended by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che, Hon WONG Yuk-man and  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan**

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That, out of care and love rooted in family ethics, family carers (i.e. people taking care of their chronically ill, disabled or elderly family members, or young children without remuneration) work tirelessly and give up their job to look after their ill or elderly family members or young children day and night while facing social, psychological, physical and financial pressures and agony; in order to affirm their contributions to Hong Kong, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures to provide support for family carers and review afresh the existing social services to complement such measures:

- (a) to set up a ‘subsidy system for carers of persons with disabilities’, such as providing additional tax allowances, to alleviate their financial burden;
- (b) to recognize that family carers have contributed to the community and they are partners of the Government, and include the services of family carers into the scope of social welfare planning;
- (c) to enhance relief support services for carers so as to enable them to take a respite, which include:
  - (i) adopting a family case approach to manage different categories of persons with disabilities and illness, so as to reduce the chance of family carers developing carer syndrome;
  - (ii) increasing the provision of day care bed service;
  - (iii) increasing the provision of respite care bed service;
  - (iv) having to introduce emergency respite care bed service; and
  - (v) increasing the provision of occasional child care services to provide support for family carers of children with disabilities and other difficulties;
- (d) to acknowledge the important functions of self-help organizations, and provide long-term and stable support for various categories of self-help family carers organizations;

- (e) to set up an inter-departmental group to review afresh the effectiveness of community care support services, and examine how such services can complement the existing social services;
- (f) to turn the Integrated Discharge Support Trial Programme for Elderly Patients into regular services, and provide similar services for persons with disabilities so that they can have discharge support after hospital discharge; and
- (g) to study the provision of training for family carers to enable them to know how to take care of family members living in residential care homes;
- (h) to enhance the selection mechanism of the Drug Formulary, so that more drugs with therapeutic effectiveness but are of higher costs will be included in the Drug Formulary, and increase the amount of subsidy under the Samaritan Fund as well as extend the scope of the Fund to cover more categories of drugs to assist patients in need to purchase drugs not on the Drug Formulary, so that people with chronic illness can be provided with suitable drugs with less side effects;
- (i) to convert vacant school premises to increase residential care places for persons with disabilities, subsidized care and attention places as well as nursing home places, so as to shorten the waiting time for such places; and
- (j) to create more care worker posts to provide additional home care services for those who are waiting for care and attention places as well as nursing home places, so as to strengthen the support for carers.