

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Legislating for regulating allied health staff to protect public health”
moved by Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 12 January 2011**

Motion as amended by Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong and Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit

That the number of allied health staff involved in caring for public health is on the increase, and although the Government has formulated a statutory registration system for 12 types of healthcare practitioners, many types of allied health staff are still not regulated by legislation; in recent years, the Government has striven to promote healthcare reform, advocated stepping up primary healthcare services, community rehabilitation services and the policy of ageing in place, etc., and emphasized the provision of appropriate primary healthcare services to members of the public, the elderly and chronic patients, etc. through multi-disciplinary healthcare services teams; however, under the Government’s policy over the years, no legislation has been enacted to regulate the registration and practice of allied health staff, such as dietitians, audiologists, psychologists, speech therapists, podiatrists, prosthetists and ancillary dental workers, etc., resulting in some people in the market falsely claiming themselves as and impersonating various types of allied health staff to provide non-professional primary healthcare services for members of the public, thus posing dangers to the health of members of the public; in this connection, this Council urges the authorities to immediately collect data for ascertaining the number, qualifications and practice of various types of allied health staff and the possible risks posed to the public in case of malpractices, to extensively consult the public and the trades concerned, and to study the feasibility and necessity of putting in place a statutory registration system for the relevant allied health staff and enacting legislation to regulate their practice, with a view to promoting primary healthcare services and protecting the health of members of the public; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to establish related independent statutory bodies, with members drawn from the allied health staff concerned and representatives of various sectors in society;
- (b) to regulate the registration and licensing examinations for practitioners of the various professions, in order to ensure and facilitate the attainment of recognized standards of practice by the respective professions;

- (c) to put in place a framework for monitoring professional conduct, so as to ensure practitioners' professional integrity; and
- (d) to increase the transparency of the respective professions and provide adequate information, with a view to educating and guiding members of the public on choosing the treatment appropriate to them.