

(Summary Translation)

**(A letter to Dr the Hon LEONG Che-hung
on the Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 1999)**

19 March 1999

Dear Dr LEONG,

Thank you for your concern and support for the Chinese medicine profession. Regarding the composition of functional constituencies (FCs) in the Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 1999, it is our hope that with the removal of the Urban Council FC and the Regional Council FC, the Government will replace one of the two FCs by the new Chinese Medicine FC.

Chinese medicine is a medical science developed by the Chinese nation, drawing on the experience accumulated from practice for millennia. With its systematic medical theories, unique diagnosis and treatment, extensive clinical experience and vast collection of literature, Chinese medicine is held in high repute in the global medical arena. Chinese medicine has not only made invaluable contribution to the development of the Chinese nation, its impact on the medical and health profession worldwide has become increasingly significant.

In Hong Kong, Chinese medicine has made equally notable contribution to the health of Hong Kong people. During the various epidemics in the history of Hong Kong, the Chinese medicine profession had cured numerous patients, relieving the pressure borne by local medical institutions. The Chinese medicine profession has silently played its role in the provision of medical and health services to the people. According to surveys, over 60% of Hong Kong people consult Chinese medicine practitioners and take Chinese medicines. Chinese medicine remains an important pillar and also an integral part of the medical and health care services in Hong Kong. Furthermore, in his Policy Address the Chief Executive stated that one of the objectives is to gradually position Hong Kong to be a world centre for the development of Chinese medicine. Therefore, we consider that the Chinese medicine profession should be represented in the Legislative Council (LegCo) as a FC.

As early as in September 1994, the Chinese medicine profession in Hong Kong repeatedly submitted proposals to the then Preparatory Committee of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, suggesting that the Chinese medicine profession should be represented in LegCo as a new FC. Not long ago, the Government introduced the Chinese Medicine Bill which is now under the scrutiny of the LegCo. We believe that the professional status of Chinese medicine practitioners will soon be established so it is now opportune for a FC to be allocated to the Chinese medicine profession. Therefore, we hope that you

will kindly reflect our views to the Bills Committee on the Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 1999 and we would appreciate it if arrangements could be made for our representatives to express our views to the Bills Committee.

With best regards,

Jointly signed by 24 Chinese medicine organizations

Remarks: signatures of the representatives of the various organizations are enclosed.