

本署檔號 OUR REF. : S/F(2) in HAB/CR/1/2/34 Pt. 7  
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24 May 2000

Miss Flora Tai  
Clerk to Bills Committee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Jackson Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Tai,

**Bills Committee on  
Family Status Discrimination (Amendment) Bill 2000**

I refer to the proposals put forward respectively by Hon Margaret Ng and your Assistant Legal Adviser regarding the retrospective provision in the Bill at the last Bills Committee meeting on 18 May 2000.

In relation to Hon Margaret Ng's proposal that the amendments should not have retrospective effect but the Bill should provide that no proceedings can be brought in respect of former acts after the Bill is passed, we think that such a prohibitive provision is undesirable as it may be considered to be an interference with the right of access to a court.

On the Assistant Legal Adviser's proposal, we have prepared draft proposed CSAs to save existing rights and obligations of under an agreement or settlement agreement entered into before the enactment of the Bill. Please distribute the enclosed draft CSAs to members for discussion at the next Bills Committee meeting on 25 May 2000.

Yours sincerely,

(C M Wong)  
for Secretary for Home Affairs