

立法會
Legislative Council

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Meeting of Panel on Welfare Services on 30 March 2006

**Proposed motion on “Assistance to patients of
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and their families”**

Purpose

This paper seeks members’ views on the proposal that the Panel should seek the agreement of the House Committee for allocation of a debate slot to Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Panel on Welfare Services, to move a motion on “Assistance to patients of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and their families” for debate at the Council meeting on 17 May 2006.

Background

2. At the joint meeting of the Panel on Health Services, Panel on Manpower and Panel on Welfare Services held on 9 March 2006 to discuss the support the Government provided to patients of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), members were concerned that the Administration’s responses given at the meeting had fallen short of addressing the needs of the SARS patients and their families. To enable Members and public officers to consider the proposals of the joint meeting on the provision of financial assistance to the SARS patients and their families, Hon Emily LAU suggested that the three Panels should jointly seek the agreement of the House Committee for a debate slot to be allocated to the Chairman of the joint meeting to move a motion on the subject for debate at a Council meeting.

Proposal

3. As there is no provision in the House Rules (HR) for priority allocation of a debate slot to the chairman of a joint meeting of Panels, it is proposed that the request for allocation of a debate slot be put forward by the Panel on

Welfare Services under HR 14A(h). Should the House Committee accede to such a request, the debate slot will not be counted as Dr CHEUNG's own slot.

4. The proposed wording of the motion is in the **Appendix**.
5. If members agree to the proposal, the request will be put forward to the House Committee for consideration at its meeting on 21 April 2006. If agreed by the House Committee, the earliest Council meeting for moving the motion is 17 May 2006.

Advice sought

6. Members' agreement is sought on the proposal and the wording of the proposed motion in paragraphs 3 and 4 above.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
29 March 2006

**Motion on “Assistance to patients of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and their families” to be moved by
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG, Chairman of Panel on Welfare Services,
at the Legislative Council meeting on 17 May 2006**

Draft wording of the Motion

“That, in view of the ex-gratia nature and the anticipated shortfall of the Trust Fund for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (the Trust Fund), this Council urges the Government to implement the following measures to assist the patients of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and/or their families -

- (a) relax the Trust Fund’s \$500,000 ceiling on special ex-gratia financial assistance for each eligible recovered or “suspected” SARS patient;
- (b) extend the scope of the Trust Fund to cover also families of the deceased “suspected” SARS patients;
- (c) grant special ex-gratia relief payments to families with deceased elderly SARS patients irrespective of whether the affected families had been relying on the deceased for financial support; and
- (d) inject additional funds into the Trust Fund.”