



Room 901, Hang Shing Bldg., 363-373 Nathan Road, Kowloon.  
 Email: [hkdu@hkdu.org](mailto:hkdu@hkdu.org) Home page: <http://www.hkdu.org>  
 Tel. No.: 2388 2728 Fax: 2385 5275

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10<sup>th</sup> June 2013

By email and fax

Dr. Hon Kenneth Chan Ka Lok  
 Chairman  
 Bills Committee on Product Eco-responsibility (Amendment) Bill 2013  
 Legislative Council  
 Legislative Council Complex  
 1 Legislative Council Road  
 Central, Hong Kong

Dear Dr. Hon Chan,

**Re: Hong Kong Doctors Union Submission on Product Eco-responsibility (Amendment) Bill 2013**

Hong Kong Doctors Union (HKDU) is the unique trade union with doctor members in both public and private services. Registered with the Trade Union Registry to look after the interests and rights of doctors in their employer employee relationship, HKDU is committed to upgrade the standard of medical doctors to cater for the health of the Hong Kong community.

HKDU while supporting reduction of use of plastic bags in the course of protecting the environment must put the safety of patients in the first place. As such we must remind the Government that we are obliged to use different carry bags for different patients to prevent mixing up of medications, for example, when more than one member of the same family come together for treatment. The same safety measure applies in the situation of different carry bags for same patient requiring medications for more than one illness such as acute illness simultaneously with chronic illness. The use of different bags prevents mixing up the two groups of drugs and patient's confusing them and is important in the health management so far in Hong Kong.

In order to safeguard health in the community, doctors should be exempted from the levy system on carry plastic bags for small pill bags and bottles for medicine syrup. Doctors are not authorized sellers of drugs and we can only legally prescribe medicine. We would like to remind the Council and the Government that if doctors do otherwise to sell drugs will breach the Code of Professional Conduct for the Guidance of Registered Medical Practitioners promulgated by the Medical Council of Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ho Oek Ling  
 Hon. Secretary  
 Hong Kong Doctors Union

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