

**Submission to Panel on Health Services on the
Regulation of Formula Products and Foods for Infants and Young Children**

The Lion Rock Institute, as always, is against any form of censorship on any form of information at any time. Therefore, we are strongly opposed to the ban of uncensored information flow of formula milk, which leads to the subjugation of mothers via coercive ignorance.

Our institute has consulted women of child-bearing age regarding the censorship of information flow on formula milk and its related products. A woman felt that this censorship is a male driven policy with a target to dominate women. She asked: "Is this censorship a male policy maker's attempt to justify their intention of having a paternalistically driven Hong Kong? Is this a sexist policy designed to suppress women from their freedom to gain infant feeding information that best apply to their circumstances?" Another woman stated, "This is a men verses women debate, and yet, this is a debate which men has no place to talk because men cannot breastfeed. They will never understand or empathize with our feelings when it comes to bearing children and breastfeeding."

This is a policy that could only be pursued on the assumption that women does not know best, women are ignorant, and women will put what they nurtured in their womb for 10 months because of a 30 seconds television advertisement. The Lion Rock Institute is gravely disappointed that the Hong Kong government would accept such an assumption about the women in Hong Kong.

Many research have concluded with empirical evidence that breastfeeding contributes to postnatal depression. For example, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has proven that women who had problems with breastfeeding, compared with women who enjoyed the breastfeeding process, are 42% more likely to have postnatal depression.

And what are the consequence of this enforced censorship?

In the UK, information flow on infant formula milk has been banned.

A British mother named Felicia Boots, who was experiencing problems with breastfeeding suffered post natal depression and consequently suffocated her ten-week-old son Mason and 14-month-old daughter Lily to death.

On this alone, The Lion Rock Institute is and will continue to oppose the censorship of formula milk information. The Lion Rock Institute would like to ask those who supports this censorship. How many more deaths would be enough to justify the cessation of this policy?

Sigmund Freud, the founding father of psychoanalysis, once said, 'Men more moral than they think and far more immoral than they can imagine'. The censorship will not only endanger the mental health of women, but also the physical safety of their children.

This is a policy to render baby milk formula to the level of cigarettes and other tobacco products, implying mothers' relationships with baby milk formula is identical to smokers and their cigarettes.

Therefore, in protecting the rights to mental health and freedom of women, the Lion Rock Institute strongly objects to the ban of uncensored information flow of infant formula milk.