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SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND WELFARE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

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25 April 2018

本函檔號 Our Ref.: 來函檔號 Your Ref.:

The Honourable WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Chairman
Bills Committee on Employment (Amendment) Bill 2017
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Chairman,

Resumption of Second Reading Debate on the Employment (Amendment) Bill 2017

I refer to my letter of 29 January 2018 to you on the above subject.

The letter served to inform you that I withdrew the notice issued to the Legislative Council (LegCo) on 22 January 2018 for resuming the Second Reading debate of the Employment (Amendment) Bill 2017 ("the Bill") on 31 January 2018. I have explained in the letter that the Administration needed to withdraw that notice because a lately received set of Member's Committee Stage amendments ("CSAs") to the Bill had proposed substantial changes to the Government's proposal. The proposed amendments were not discussed at the Bills Committee and represented a major departure from the consensus reached by the employer and employee representatives of the Labour Advisory Board ("LAB").

We have subsequently reported the matter to the LAB. While LAB Members did not reach any consensus on the CSAs, they considered that the Government could resume Second Reading debate of the Bill on the basis of its original version. As such, I would like to inform you that I have just written to the President that we plan to resume the Second Reading Debate on the Bill on 16 May 2018. To this effect, we are going to give a notice to the LegCo under Rule 54(5) of the Rules of Procedure for resuming the Second Reading debate of the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr CK Law)

Secretary for Labour and Welfare