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Our Ref.: HKDU/099/2017
7 July 2017

Mr. Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Chairman
Bills Committee on Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2017
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

By email

Dear Ms. Hon Cheung,

Re: Bills Committee on Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2017

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. While we are committed to upgrade the standard of medical doctors to cater for the health of the Hong Kong community, we also relate to the Government the urgent needs of the patients and reflect the true situation in the context of medical care so that the Government will appropriately and efficiently set up policies with long term benefits for the health of Hong Kong citizens.

As one of the members of the Tripartite Platform on Amendments to the Medical Registration Ordinance, we have studied the Medical Registration Ordinance (MRO) in depth and do agree on most of the amendments proposed by the Government in the captioned Bill 2017.

Our utmost concern is the composition of the Medical Council of Hong Kong. Presently, there are 2 representatives appointed by the Government from each of the 5 statutory bodies, namely, Department of Health, Hospital Authority, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, University of Hong Kong and Chinese University of Hong Kong. Also there are 4 lay members appointed by the Government, 7 directly elected Doctor Members and 7 doctor members returned by the Hong Kong Medical Association by direct election.

The addition of 4 lay members to the MCHK as suggested by the Government in the captioned bill

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is supported by the majority of the HKDU members on the condition that 4 more elected Doctor Members should be added as well so as to maintain the 1 : 1 ratio of appointed vs elected members. This is in line with the consensus among the public and private doctors in Hong Kong to maintain the 1:1 ratio to protect the **professional autonomy of the medical profession**.

If the Government insists on the 1/4 occupancy of lay members in health care boards as stipulated in her recent discussion paper on **Strategic Review on Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development**, then the alternative would be adding both 6 lay members together with 6 elected Doctor Members to raise the ratio of lay members of the MCHK to 25%. To this, we have no disagreement.

However, if ONLY adding 4 lay members is the base line of the Government, we would suggest to change the status of one member each from Department of Health and Hospital Authority respectively to direct election among doctors. This is to maintain the 1:1 ratio for Professional Autonomy and at the same time would not disturb the return of members from the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM) as proposed by the Government in the captioned bill. We are of the opinion that the representation of the HKAM is very important in the MCHK to uphold the standard of postgraduate specialist training and the standard of medical care in Hong Kong. The representatives from the HKAM should not be returned by general election which would go out of the control from her board of directors who formulate the postgraduate medical education.

We sincerely wish the Government and the Legislative Councillors would seriously consider our proposals to help maintain the standard of medical care in a harmonious Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Yeung Chiu Fat Henry
President
Hong Kong Doctors Union

CC: Mrs. Hon. Carrie Lam, Chief Executive
Prof. Sophia CHAN, JP Secretary for Food and Health

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Legislative Councillors

Prof. Joseph LAU, SBS, Chairman, The Medical Council of Hong Kong

Dr. Lau Chak Sing, President, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine

Dr. Constance Chan, Director of Health

Dr. Leung Pak Yin, Chief Executive, Hospital Authority

Dr. Choi Kin, President, the Hong Kong Medical Association

Press



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