

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2017

Chairman, Panel on Health Services  
The Legislative Council of Hong Kong  
Legislative Council Complex, 1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Chairman,

**Re: Panel on Health Services Special Meeting on 17 January 2017**

I write to in order to express my frustration about the Panel's decision to postpone and delay the decision made on the increment of health warnings on cigarette packets from 50% to 85%. I was one of the students that attended the Deputation presentation earlier this year with the hopes that my views and assertions would be heard, having been largely focused on debunking the distorted argument proposed by cigarette companies. These fallacies in the argumentation of the pro-cigarette company camp were also highlighted by my fellow citizens present at the deputation and experts from the medical community that come from the same aisle on this issue as I do - and I think our points of view towards the motion of an amendment falls in line with what is scientifically true and holds great promise in contributing to the betterment of society.

Based on my years of education in Public Health and now Medicine, I would like to urge the Government to take swift, conclusive and decisive action on this most urgent matter. As an individual that is concerned with the progressiveness of the health system, I have always spoken about the impending chronic diseases epidemic, which smoking is most definitely at the centre of, being a common risk factor for so many of such diseases. It is also due to this that I support the proposed amendment with gusto. If circumstances do not change, I fear that my future as a medical doctor will be focusing on the care and management of those that have committed self-harm which could have easily been curbed by the government - and the realisation that the tobacco epidemic might affect my peers and acquaintances deeply troubles and saddens me. The Government must hence spare no time and act *immediately*, lest there be more of such senseless loss of life around ourselves, especially because this amendment holds great potential in arresting the taking up of smoking habits by young, curious, vulnerable and disillusioned people in our community.

I hope that, in all, the aforementioned statement of my personal stance as a student of healthcare will resonate with you, and hence offer it to you for your kind perusal. Thank you for your kind attention, and I hope to hear good news about the passing of this amendment in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



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