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Our Ref.: HKDU/102/2018
15th June 2018

Prof. Hon Joseph Lee Kok Long
Chairman
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
panel_hs@legco.gov.hk

By Email & Mail

Dear Prof. Lee,

Re: Enact a total ban on e-cigarettes and other new tobacco products

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 a Doctors' NGO committed to cater for better health protection of the Hong Kong Community, we fully support anti-smoking campaign(s) and Government's anti-smoking policy and legislation as smoking is well documented to be hazardous to our health. We do hope that our Tobacco Control Office can function effectively with enough resources to eradicate smoking from our community. Not only tobacco product is harmful to the physical health of smokers, but is also harmful to surrounding non-smokers as well. Tobacco affects all ages and causes physical and psychological dependence which is damaging to the Hong Kong Community.

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We shall aim at a smoke free Hong Kong and take away the dangers of smoking to young children and teenagers around the city. The recently introduced electronic cigarettes and other new smoking products, including Heat-Not-Burn (HNB) tobacco products, said to cause less harm to human beings have emerged in the market and have become popular among youngsters. However, the World Health Organization (WHO) have stated that even though the toxic substances produced by these new products are lower than those in the conventional cigarettes, they are unlikely to be harmless, and their long term use is expected to increase the risk of respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, as well as some other diseases associated with smoking. In addition, the WHO considers that all forms of tobacco use, including the use of HNB products, are harmful and advises that HNB products should be subjected to the same regulatory measures as applied to all other tobacco products. We appeal to all Legislative Councillors to ban the import of cigarettes and tobacco products altogether into Hong Kong to save our people.

Furthermore, as alcohol is proven to be carcinogenic by the WHO, we would ask our Honorary members of the panel sincerely to consider ways to decrease the consumption of alcohol in Hong Kong and even to ban alcohol in the long run as it is proven to be a major worldwide cause of liver disease, particularly liver cancer.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Chan Pui Kwong
Hon Secretary
Hong Kong Doctors Union

CC: Prof. Sophia Chan, Secretary for Food and Health

Dr. Lee Pui Man, Head, Tobacco Control Office, Department of Health

Mr. Kwong Cho Shing, Chairman, Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health

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