

- 家庭醫生 Family Medicine
- 健康檢查
- 社區營養服務 Community Nutrition
- 物理治療
- 外展醫療 Medical Outre
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- 長者社區支援服務
- 倡健學校計劃(健康校園)
- 愛鄰網絡 Good Neighbour Network (Rehabilitation Service)
- 健康教育及推廣 Health Education & Promotion
- 病理檢驗 Pathology Laboratory
- 臨床心理服務 Clinical Psychology

## LC Paper No. CB(2)1175/18-19(108)

Clerk to Panel on Health Services Legislative Council Secretariat Legislative Council Complex 1 Legislative Council Road Central, Hong Kong

6th April 2019

Dear Sir/Madam;

Re: To implement total Ban of E cigarette and any form of alternative smoking product. Impose, Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2019.

I am a health professional and working in the smoking cessation service, in the past 8 yrs I have come across thousands of smokers, for many we have assisted to quit successfully, however many more relapsed and are still struggling, despite of our assistance and their own intention to quit. One of the main reasons is, cigarettes are easily available. In the past years, we have seen more women and increasing trend of younger people. Furthermore, we have observed that there is tendency of starting E- cigarette and heat not burn products as an alternative. A survey conducted by the School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong, ever use of e-cigarettes among primary 2 to primary 4 students increased from 2.9% in 2016-2017 to 4.5% in 2017-2018, which surged by 55%. In the US, E-cigarette use among high school students in 2018 was almost 14 times more than in 2011.

E- cigarette are marketed as trendy items and target at non-smokers, women and youth, making them a gateway to smoking and some smokers are switching to these products instead of quitting smoking.

We need to emphasize that there is no safe and harmless tobacco product in the world. Increasing number of research studies gave revealed severe health impact by using Ecigarettes, heat-not-burn tobacco products and any other new smoking products. They are not the healthier alternatives because they do contain and release various detrimental and carcinogenic substances.



World Health Organization has verified that there is limited and unconvincing evidence of e-cigarettes and other new smoking products on smoking cessation. Thus these products are not the legitimate tool for quitting smoking.

To protect the health of the public, especially the younger generation, the Government and Legislative Council should take this bold step. As overseas experiences showed that regulatory approach on E-cigarettes and other new tobacco products is not able to prevent its epidemic among youngsters, however total ban has shown positive impact. Thus total ban is the only way to prevent current and future health risks posed by the tobacco epidemic. Thus, I Urge the government for immediate passage of the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill, to prohibit the import, manufacture, sale, distribution and advertisement of E-cigarettes and other new smoking products, to protect public health.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely

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