

To Mr Kwok Wai Keung

Reference No: **69878D8D**

Name: Lee Ka Ying

Bills Committee on Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2019

As a member of Certified Public Accountants under HKICPA and a mom of two, I am writing to you to express my view on a proposed blanket ban on importation, selling and distribution on e-cigarettes and other alternative tobacco products from the recent Government Press Conference held on February 13th 2019.

As a non-smoker, I appreciate the new innovation on heat not burn product because it creates less smell and more importantly it does not create harmful second hand smoke to other innocent people. I understand there are also independent clinical and research studies that show heat not burn product potentially have 90-95% harm reduction compared to conventional cigarettes. So in my opinion, this is a really great news to the society with an alternative choice for the smokers to choose the most suitable product to them, but at the same time if more people start to use heat not burn product, more people including myself can benefit from the reduction of second hand smoke.

However, following the government's proposal on complete ban on e cigarettes and heat not burn product simply because it may attract minors to start using it and violate their continued efforts to drive down the smoking incidence, it simply does not make sense to me. First of all, if the government want to prevent minors to use the new product, just apply the same regulation on conventional cigarettes can serve the same purpose. If minors really want to try, they can always find it from illegal sources which complete ban or regulation cannot stop that either. Secondly, the government has yet to provide solid evidence to show to the public how complete ban on heat not burn can reduce smoking incidence at all. Without any reasons or evidence to back up their decision but to propose complete ban is just killing the freedom of choice for the current over 600,000 smokers, and causing the remaining non smoking population to suffer from the harmful second hand smoke which can be reduced if heat not burn product can be regulated instead of complete ban.

Thank you for your time to read through my opinion. I sincerely hope you can provide feedback and comments to the Government. You can contact me via my personal email below if you need any clarification.

Sincerely,

Ka Ying Lee

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