LC Paper No. CB(2)1175/18-19(173)

Legislative Council Complex 1 Legislative Council Road Central, Hong Kong

Dear honourable members of the Legislative Council,

Re: Total ban on electronic cigarettes and other new tobacco products

I am writing to express my full support to the Government for putting forward the legislation on a total ban on electronic cigarettes and other novel tobacco products, including heated tobacco products.

Without the slightest doubt, there are no risk-free tobacco products. Fewer toxicants exposure does not mean fewer risk to health. Most tobacco user begins smoking during adolescence to early adulthood. The high-tech, sophisticated and sleek design of e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products are particularly appealing to young people. This couples with the unfounded claim by their manufacturers that these products are safer to health have the grave potential to re-normalise tobacco use and to fuel another epidemic of tobacco addict. Indeed, recent reports have found that local use of novel tobacco products among adults and youths have skyrocketed, even though these products had not been formally introduced in Hong Kong. A total ban of these products is imperative and the policy of choice to curb their use before it is too late.

Tobacco industrial behemoths are infamous of their tremendous lobbying power against any antismoking measures, deceiving not only the public but also policymakers. I earnestly hope that all honourable members of the Legislative Council could heed your consciences and place the health of the people in top priority to other commercial consideration and support the Government's proposal. Your decision would have the impact of reversing Hong Kong's nearly 40 years of efforts to reduce tobacco use or to continue making Hong Kong an exemplar of successful tobacco control worldwide.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Yours faithfully,

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Tzu Tsun LUK Registered Nurse