

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

Legislative Council Secretariat,

Legislative Council Complex

1 Legislative Council Road,

Central, Hong Kong

Dear Chairman:

4 April, 2019

Re: Hong Kong Government's Proposed Ban on E-Cigarettes

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

I am representing as an individual to express my opinion on the recent proposal by the Hong Kong Government announced on February 13, 2019 which plans to push ahead with a controversial blanket ban on E-cigarettes and other heated smoking products (i.e. Heat-Not-Burn products) in Hong Kong.

As a non-smoker and a mother of twins, I personally disagree with the government on this proposal. The reason is because:

- This will create new black market for young people to get these products. If government ban these e-cigarette and heated smoking products on the market rather than regulate them, teenagers will have their ways to get their hands on these products. Even if government put more resources and full control on these black markets, these teenagers will still find their way to find them because with the current technology, teenagers in this generation are much smarter.
- With no controls on these products that sold in the black market, can we guarantee these smoking products are genuine and safe? If teenagers smoke into these unknown harmful substance, this will definitely do more harmful towards the health of these teenagers.
- Banning will not help to control the growth of teenagers on smoking these products in the long run. If government want to control the teenagers from touching these products, government should incorporate anti-smoking education into the standard school curriculum from as early as primary school and continue in secondary school. This will educate young people about the health risks of smoking.

Personally I also believe it is the parent's responsibility to educate our kids that smoking is bad. If parents educate their kid properly, then less teenagers would go for these products. As a parent, I already start educating my twins who are 4 years old and tell them smoking is bad when we see smokers on the streets.

Therefore, I believe providing education to our kids, no matter from parents or from school, it would be more effective in the long run than just banning these products on the market.

I understand the objective of the government to propose this ban on e-cigarettes is to protect the teenagers from smoking these products, however I disagree with the proposal with the reason I mentioned above.

Instead of banning heated smoking products, Hong Kong Government should regulate these products to ensure only adults (18 years old or above) can buy them. A ban cannot achieve this objective as it will lead to other problems in our society, i.e. more crimes and would place more risk towards the teenager's health by smoking these unknown substances in these products.

Please communicate these key points to the Government and that they should regulate and not ban these new products in Hong Kong.

Thanks for your kind attention.

Yours Sincerely,



Kay Wong

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