

Date: 4 April 2019
To: Mr. Kwok Wai Keung
Reference #: 3302588D

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

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing to the Bills Committee regarding the proposed ban of heated tobacco products that was recently announced by the Hong Kong Government. Although I am not a smoker, I have many friends who either smoke, or use these new heated tobacco products. From a non-smokers perspective there is a huge difference for me when I am around people who are smoking normal cigarettes vs. the heated devices.

Physically, second hand smoke from cigarettes affects me greatly so I usually avoid being around my friends whilst they are smoking, however I cannot say the same for heated tobacco products. When I am around people using these types of devices and products, I do not feel the same negative effects as I do with normal cigarette smoke.

I have done my research and found a lot of material both for, and against these products. I think it is important for the Government to offer people the choice, and allow them to decide for themselves which type of product they would like to consume. I am an expat currently living in Hong Kong, and one of the reasons I chose this country to call my new home was because your Hong Kong still enjoys a freedom not seen in many other Asian countries. I believe now more than ever, this is one of the core values that Hong Kong needs to protect to enjoy its current way of life.

I understand there are concerns from the Government that these products may be used by minors, however I could say the same for many other legal aged products I see available in convenience stores and supermarkets across the country. I believe with the proper regulations in place, the government can manage this concern appropriately, whilst still giving legal aged smokers better alternatives to normal cigarettes.

I hope the Government can realize the benefits of regulating these new types of products and makes the correct choice in allowing people to choose which product they feel is better for them. I have seen firsthand the benefits of regulating these types of devices from our neighboring countries such as Japan and Korea and hope we can follow suit.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Tran

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