

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

Dear Mr. Kwok Wai Keung,

It came to my attention that the Hong Kong Government is proposing a total ban on heated tobacco products. I witnessed one of my very best friend Ricky journey of switching from cigarettes to a product called IQOS, I have known Ricky for more than 15 years and he has been a smoker all his life. Before switching to IQOS he was suffering from serious coughing and lung pain. Cigarettes not only harm himself but also people around him due to the second hand smoke. He tried quitting smoking countless times but he is too addicted to quit.

Around 2 years ago Ricky switched to IQOS and I saw a significant and gradual change of his health. His cough disappeared and no longer suffer from lung pain, when Ricky smokes IQOS there is even no second hand smokes. However, it came to my knowledge that all the IQOS tobacco sticks are only available in the black market meaning Ricky violates the law only to purchase a product which helps him to get away from cigarette and also improve his life and also those people around him.

I believe there are lot of Ricky who just simply cannot quit smoking but switched to IQOS to improve their lifestyle, therefore I urge the Hong Kong Government to make heated tobacco products available in Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,

Tam Ho Nam