

(Translation)

**Motion on  
“Reviewing the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme”  
moved by Hon SHIU Ka-chun  
at the Council meeting of 16 January 2019**

**Motion as amended by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG,  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung, Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
and Hon AU Nok-hin**

That, the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’) Scheme has not been reviewed since 1996 and its contents are outdated, therefore the amount of assistance received by CSSA recipients is unable to cover their basic needs in daily lives; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to immediately review and improve the CSSA Scheme; specific proposals include:

- (1) formulating afresh the mechanism to determine the amount of assistance;
- (2) adjusting upward the special grants to CSSA recipients with disabilities and in ill health, including rent allowance, relocation allowance and special diet allowance, so as to ensure that they can live in adequate rented housing in light of their health care needs, and receive sufficient subvention for purchasing suitable food and health supplements on the recommendation of doctors;
- (3) relaxing the disregarded earnings arrangement under the CSSA Scheme and regularizing the ‘Pilot Scheme on Raising the Maximum Level of Disregarded Earnings for Recipients with Disabilities under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme’ under the Community Care Fund, so as to encourage recipients with disabilities to work and sustain employment to safeguard their basic income;
- (4) granting, in accordance with the recommendations made by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the Government in 2012, people with disabilities the right to apply for and receive CSSA on an individual basis, and extending this right to the elderly; and
- (5) shelving the tightening of eligibility age for elderly CSSA to 65, and extending the Portable Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme to cover other provinces of the Mainland;

- (6) strengthening the support for single-parent families, including increasing the single parent supplements and support services for single-parent families;
- (7) reviewing the disregarded earnings arrangement to increase the incentive to encourage able-bodied CSSA recipients to work;
- (8) increasing the grants to people with disabilities for various medical treatment and rehabilitation services to help them meet daily nursing care needs; and
- (9) improving the rent allowance mechanism to alleviate the rent burden on the CSSA households;
- (10) calculating the maximum amount of rent allowance on the basis of the average increase in actual rent payments of CSSA recipients renting private residential units;
- (11) reintroducing the grants for rent deposit and removal expenses for able-bodied CSSA recipients to alleviate their financial pressure from finding accommodation elsewhere;
- (12) providing long-term supplement for families who are not living with the elderly, the disabled or ill-health and have been in receipt of CSSA for 12 consecutive months or more, so as to help them replace durable goods such as furniture and electrical appliances; and
- (13) providing grants to CSSA recipients, irrespective of age and disability, for covering costs of dental treatment and glasses having regard to their physical conditions and needs; and
- (14) before revising the benchmark for basic living allowance, taking account of structural changes in society and provide additional items of necessary family expenditure, such as subsidies for service fees of mobile phones, so as to develop a comprehensive safety net that does not only enable the recipients to cope with the basic living needs, but also satisfy their personal needs; and
- (15) conducting the study on basic and essential needs on a regular basis to establish the support items for different groups to maintain a basic standard of living, and re-determining the CSSA rates based on the findings of the study.