

March 25, 2008

By Fax Only : 2102 2525

The Secretary for Food and Health

Dear Dr Chow,

Healthcare Reform

It goes within saying that the Government has to do something about the healthcare system in Hong Kong. However, I cannot agree with the 6 supplementary financing options suggested in the Healthcare Reform Consultation Document. It looks like the document is customer-made for the middle class citizens that they have to pay for their own healthcare service in future. It seems that the Government is suggesting that the middle class citizens should purchase their own healthcare insurance. The upper class citizens seldom use public healthcare services as they have their own insurance already. I believe to limit the healthcare expenditures in the future the only way is to pass the responsibilities back to the middle class citizens. There is no way that the Government would charge the low-income citizens a large amount of money for their healthcare treatment or force them to purchase their own healthcare insurance. Healthcare insurance premiums are expensive.

I have a feeling that my prediction above will materialize. To help the middle class citizens in purchasing healthcare insurances, I sincerely hope that the Government could act as an employer of all the middle class citizens and negotiate with the insurance companies for better rates/insurance premiums. Furthermore, the premium paid for the healthcare should be tax deductible.

Thank you for your attention

Yours truly,



Colin P. Y. KEUNG