



kate leung

<  
>

02/04/2008 11:39

To beStrong@fhb.gov.hk

cc

bcc

Subject My feedback on medical schemes

Urgent  Return receipt  Sign  Encrypt

Dear Mr. Chou,

I am a Hong Kong citizen and a regular tax payer. I am at 36. After going through all six proposals I would like to admit it is very hard to please everyone but the No. 1 rationale must be fair to all tax payers and have a long term perspective.

As a so-called middle class we strongly oppose to any compulsory scheme - this is opposing to the genuine culture and norm of our Hong Kong society. The true Hong Kong citizen are very responsible for their own being. They are willing to pay tax, donate to the needed, help their neighbourhood and work hard to support the family. Unfortunately the fruits and merits of these people were being easily abused by other "going-to-be" Hong Kong citizens in the past 10 years and this, has influenced other local citizens of weaker mind and weaker competitiveness to follow suit. As a result our the social burden, including medical services, have raised up tremendously in a quick pace.

In the business world, precautionary measures are more valuable and proved to be more cost effective than remedy measures. I guess this should also apply to social affairs.

The problems of the compulsory medical insurance : -

1. Due to human and market nature, eventually the market will loose competitiveness in the premium rates and maintenance costs. We have a very concrete experience on the fund management fees of our MPF scheme. In the long run the insurance company will also treat these insurance plans as if not profitable enough and have no motivation to improve the service. This is the case we have in the MPF service providers.

2. Due to human and market nature, eventually the service quality, comprehensiveness and responsiveness of those service providers will depreciate. This is exactly the same case in our MPF scheme. For better service and more advanced treatment the government and the citizen have to contribute to them because, this is everyone's load.

3. Due to human and market nature, eventually the medical service providers (e.g. private hospitals) will raise their price bars to hit the very minimum basic coverage of all medical insurance packages. For better services we need to pay extra. That means, for people who are already buying their personal medical insurance today will need to pay more in the future, say 10 years later, in order to enjoy the same medical services (e.g. faster queue) that they want today.

4. Government and regulatory costs to control and monitor insurance companies and

private hospitals to comply with the government's original rationale would be very high and not justifiable. For example the checking and monitory costs of social welfare allowance could be as high as the allowance itself.

5. Separations in society - healthy people to subsidy the insurance companies to earn their portion on the unhealthy people, There are many middle class spending a lot of time in doing exercise and lead a simple life because they want to save money on medical fees. They know they can not enjoy government subsidies and if they enter a private hospital they will clear up their pockets. Moreover they can not wait on the public hospital's queue as it takes too long to queue and they must recover sooner in order to go back to work and support the family. However some of the lower class may spend a lot of time watching TV at home or eat junk food drink beer because for whatever happen to them they are eligible to whatever allowances they can get because of their income level. If there is a date that compulsory medical insurance is a must to all tax payers I may choose to quit the job and stay at home so that my family (including my husband and son) will be excluded from the tax web and we will start to apply all those allowances. In this case, my whole family can be living under the safety net and the society will loose one working woman (myself) and loose a domestic helper position (my maid). This is a win-loose situation to the society,.

I would like to suggest :-

1. Precautionary measures like free/subsidised medical check-up every year.
2. Promotion and education on heath precautions. simple life and environmental concepts, leading the pop icons in the society.
3. Straighter control of HA expenses and streamlining organisation structure. The front line staffs must be well fed.
4. Straighter control of non-urgency expenses and services like all those non-urgent therapies which are costly and non-effective.
5. Encourage volunteer medical insurance and crisis insurance by tax privileges.
6. Broaden tax base - employ sales tax is a must.

Time is short and here's what I would like to give.

If you have any questions I would be more than pleased to discuss cause this is vital to the next generations.

Best regards,  
Kate Leung

---

出差或去旅遊時，你可以隨時隨地用全新的 [Yahoo! Messenger 網上版](#) 跟你的朋友即時通訊及查詢對話訊息紀錄!