



Winnie Chan
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To bestrong@fhb.gov.hk
cc
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Subject response to health care reform

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Dear Dr Y Chow, Secretary for Food and Health

We would like to express our opinion on the Healthcare Reform Consultation Document and would like to summarize our opinion as follows

1. We agreed that there is a need for change and health care reform is an important public issue, but we question whether a 3-months consultation period is sufficient for throughout discussion. We cannot see any vigorous discussion nor explanation on the different models of health care reform as initiated by Government or related health care bodies. We can only see a TV advertisement, which showed the seniors playing football. We just cannot understand how this can enable us to better understand the coming changes and impact on our daily living with the implementation of the new system.
2. We object to the implementation of mandatory healthcare payment. Nowadays most people in HK have already purchased private medical insurance. More and more people are expected to be under the protection of a voluntary self purchased medical insurance plan and how can the Government convince us to double up our payment for medical insurance when we cannot perceive a better services in the future, apart from alleviate the burden of the Government.
3. The mandatory healthcare system just shift part of the Government's expenditure to the working force and to the so called "middle class". The Government has not increased his expenditure in health care, but decreased the wine tax and profit tax. Why can't the Government maintain his income from these taxes and redistributes them to health care expenditure. This will not only alleviate the burden from the "middle class" but also save a lot of operative expenses in running this mandatory health care fund.
4. I object to the introduction of "private patients" in Hospital Authority. HA should define its scope of service clearly and not every now and then, competes with the private market. HA is now responsible for >90% of health care services in HK. Including private patients (camouflaged as increasing patient's choice) will include more people in the public sector. HA will monopolize the health care service and further increases the Government's burden and then our burden. Patients in HA will be stratified as public / private. The system will become unfair to the low income citizens and in fact discriminates HK citizens by their incomes, their wealth, and shaken the pillar of our fairness that have been running so far.

We are looking forwards to a fair health care system. During the process of reform, it is equally important not to give up the old, good things that we have been working well for

years and things that we should have been proud of for years. We are sure that if more lay people understand the different models, more people will object to the mandatory health insurance.

Dr. Lun, Kin Shing

Dr. Chan, Kwai Yu Winnie

Mr. Lun, Wai Ching (HK citizen)

Ms. Fung Lai Har (HK citizen)