



Geoffrey Tso

<
>

16/03/2008 17:29

To beStrong@fhb.gov.hk

cc

bcc

Subject Opinions on the Consultation Document on Health
Care Reform

Urgent Return receipt Sign Encrypt

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my opinions on the Consultation Document on Health Care Reform.

Comparing the 6 options provided, I vote for option 2 of out-of-pocket payment with means-test subsidy for those with difficulty to afford their medical expenses. Despite Section 9.4 of the consultation document said that the means-test approach will involve huge amount of resources and argue that it is not practicable. I disagree with this view and believe that a simple means-test system can be set up to avoid majorities of the fraud cases. Similar to the "Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme", by-law can be established to inhibit people intention of deception.

Beside welfare, most of the other Government services are using the out-of-payment approach. I support adopting this as the basic spirit for the Health Care Reform too.

I strongly oppose adopting option 6 of Health Protection Scheme and consider this just adding tax to the middle class. There exist many problem in this option. Many middle class people are already covered by employment-linked medical insurance now. With the introduction of this scheme, many employers will cease to provide medical coverage to employees. As in your simulation result (3% contribution), 72% of the lowest income group, will not have enough saving to cover his/her family in whole life term. The assumption of 3% annual investment return is also doubtful if like MPF now, a significant % of the return will just be eaten by the management company.

Middle class in HK already have to pay income tax and MPF, adding a contribution to the Health Protection Scheme is a significant burden to them. Besides, those higher income people are unlikely to use public medical services and so unlikely to enjoy back the benefit from this Scheme, this approach create significant grievance from this group of people and prevent foreign skillful workers coming to HK.

Do you intend to "tax" those foreign workers in HK too? In theory, we should not; however, many of them can become HK citizen after living here for 7 years.

Regards,
Geoffrey Tso.