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To: REACH (REACH)

Subject: A feedback form has been submitted

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Subject: Wrong way to tackle smoking issue in Singapore

Details:

The Singapore Government is going about the wrong way in tackling the smoking problem here. Increasing prices of cigarettes and making smoking a more expensive habit is just beating about the bush without facing the problem directly. The Government needs to take a firmer and harsher stance on smoking by imposing heavier penalties on smoking itself, rather than trying to simply deter smokers by creating a price hike. Public awareness campaigns on the health risks of smoking and even gruesome images on cigarette boxes do not work as effectively as the Government hopes, due to the very simple fact that when a person is addicted, they would often ignore all reasoning just to continue feeding their addictions. Visual and financial deterrence do not work because smokers will simply devote more of their income to buying cigarettes and they also believe they will be the lucky ones who won't be affected by health problems due to smoking. Therefore, trying to wean smokers off of their habit or addiction is a futile effort by the Government instead of facing the issue head-on. To do this, we need to make smoking itself a crime. Despite smoking killing more users and affecting more people around them due to the smoke permeating the entirety of the smoker's vicinity, smoking somehow is seen as less damaging than the abuse of recreational drugs. We need to make it known through Government policies and new laws that smoking should be treated as more dangerous and hence should result in greater punishment under the law. By making smoking illegal, we should impose prison terms for anyone caught smoking anywhere, in both public and private spaces. We should also impose the death penalty on smuggling and trafficking of all cigarettes just like we do to drug trafficking, but regardless of the amount trafficked. This will be in response to the greater amounts of cigarettes being sold underground and on the black market when smoking and sales of cigarettes are completely outlawed. The government has failed in its fight against smoking because it has been too lenient, too forgiving and unwilling, even hypocritical, in facing the greatest public health risk in Singapore.