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11 April 2020

Mr Gan Kim Yong  
Mr Lawrence Wong

Co-chairs  
Multi-Ministry Taskforce on COVID-19

Dear Ministers,

**Re: Child care arrangements for healthcare workers**

I write to express our sincere gratitude to you and the Multi-Ministry Taskforce, on behalf of our members.

The rapid, nimble response and timely intervention of the Taskforce on the child care arrangements of healthcare workers are greatly appreciated. Feedback from our members and other healthcare workers overnight have been overwhelmingly positive. Your care and empathy for healthcare workers have been amply demonstrated in your flexibility in policy implementation and responsiveness to feedback. The new measures will address the challenges we face in child care and allow us to focus our energies on taking care of the sick and fighting COVID-19 under the leadership of the Taskforce.

May I cite some responses from healthcare workers on social media:

*"Hurray!"*

*"Big thanks to MOH for this responsive finetuning of policy – big relief to my class and many of my colleagues"*

*"Thanks MOH and Taskforce for addressing our concerns so quickly. We are relieved we can continue to do our part without the stress of worrying about urgent childcare arrangements."*

*"This is wonderful news!"*

*"Many thanks, MOH! The announcement was greeted with cheers of relief and appreciation from my class"*

*"We are very impressed and thankful that the Taskforce and MOH have responded so quickly to our requests. We would like to convey our sincere thanks to the Taskforce."*

*"Thank you, MOH. This is much appreciated."*

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*“Our class would like to express our heartfelt thanks on this, that MOH has heard us, the workers on the ground. It is heartening to know that we are well-supported by MOH. Credit to the entire MOH team for responding rapidly and effectively to this. Hope you all get a good rest tonight.”*

I hope that the above cheers of joy and support from healthcare workers will bring encouragement to the Taskforce members and staff in the various Ministries coordinating the national efforts against COVID-19. While healthcare and other essential workers are often portrayed as frontline warriors, the members of your Taskforce and the staff in the Ministries have also been working relentlessly round the clock, protecting our country and saving lives. You and your staff are the unsung heroes in this struggle against the epidemic.

Take heart that the well-trained and dedicated healthcare professionals of Singapore will do our utmost to support the Taskforce and minister to the sick in each of our diverse vocations. With unity and fortitude, we will prevail and emerge victorious.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Yik Voon', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Lee Yik Voon  
President  
Singapore Medical Association