

(By email)

Timothy Lemmer
Letters Editor
The Wall Street Journal
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Dear Mr Lemmer,

Your editorial “More Trouble Looms for Hong Kong” (May 11) might indicate a misunderstanding of the National Anthem Bill introduced by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.

The legislative principle of the bill seeks to preserve the dignity of the national anthem, whilst taking into account Hong Kong’s common law system and actual circumstances. The bill does not aim to limit the rights and freedoms of people, but rather to provide guidance on the use of the national anthem, particularly with regard to its misuse, such as for commercial purposes, or intentional insulting behavior.

The drafting of the bill has undergone stringent procedures during which views from various sectors of the community, including different political parties, professional groups, representatives from the legal sector and the academia, were gauged.

As an international financial and business hub, Hong Kong upholds freedom of speech and freedom of expression which are protected by our constitutional document, the Basic Law, and the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance. Furthermore, provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as applied to Hong Kong remain in force. These cherished civil liberties will not be compromised.

Sincerely,
Eddie Mak
Hong Kong Commissioner to the United States