



**For Immediate Release**

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## **On Passage of the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act in the Senate**

*Bipartisan action comes at critical moment but continued vigilance and actions are required*

WASHINGTON, DC (November 19, 2019) – **Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC)** issues the following statements following passage of the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act by unanimous consent in the Senate:

**From HKDC board member, Dr. Victoria Tin-bor Hui:** “The Beijing and Hong Kong authorities have taken an increasingly bloody crackdown on the city’s young people whom they see as ‘enemies of the people.’ The police have broken their bones and beaten their heads, in addition to targeting them with tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, bean bag rounds, and even live ammunition. The latest assaults on university campuses signal the authorities’ endgame to wipe out determined protestors. At this critical moment in Hong Kong’s teenager-versus-superpower struggle, we appreciate that the US Senate passed the Act in a clear message of support for Hong Kong.”

**From HKDC managing director, Samuel Chu:** “The scenes on streets in Hong Kong resemble those of a war-zone. The Chinese and Hong Kong governments must realize that they cannot – even with an overwhelming militarized police force – extinguish the hopes and aspirations of a generation and a whole city of freedom fighters. The escalating of police’s violent suppression in the past week – an attempt by the authorities to ‘finish the job’ of breaking the protest movement – was met today with a clear and unequivocal message from the US Senate: **the actions of Chinese and Hong Kong authorities against their own citizens will not go unnoticed and unpunished.**”

“I credit **Senator Rubio’s** unwavering leadership in demanding action from the full Senate for today’s passage of S1838 by unanimous consent. We thank Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer and the bill’s original sponsors, Sen. Rubio, Cardin, Risch and Menendez for their bipartisan leadership and for standing boldly to answer the call for help from Hong Kongers. I have no doubt they were inspired and moved by the courage and bravery shown by young protesters – some of whom remain trapped and surrounded inside Polytechnic University even now.”

“Today’s passage in the Senate is a big step – but more work lies ahead - and continued vigilance and engagement are required as we push Congress and the Administration to keep their pressure on the Chinese and Hong Kong governments. **The Senate version of the bill must now be reconciled with the House version that was passed back in October.** I believe both versions, despite minor differences, contain the necessary tools and ingredients for a more robust US defense of Hong Kong’s autonomy and human rights.”

**“The priority now must be finding the quickest and most strategic path toward a final bill that President Trump will and must sign.** The best option could be attaching the negotiated final bill to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) – a must-pass legislation required to fund the Department of Defense - currently in Conference Committee. HKDC will also work with all relevant agencies – State, Treasury, Commerce, Homeland Security etc. – to ensure that they are prepared to implement and enforce the various measures once the law is enacted.”

***Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC)** is the DC-based nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Hong Kong’s basic freedoms, the rule of law, and autonomy as promised under the “one country two systems” model and enshrined in the Basic Law and the Sino-British Joint Declaration.*

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