

# INTERVIEW

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# INTERVIEW WITH MR. KWON CHIL-SEUNG

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*Mr. Kwon Chil-Seung is a second term Assemblyman in the Republic of Korea. He is from the Democratic Party and represents Hwaseong district. As a member of the Health and Welfare Committee, he has put forth various legislations including legislations on hospital surveillance and the protection of patient's rights. He discusses how COVID-19 has impacted the Committee of Health and Welfare and the protection of patients' rights through legislation.*

**YJIS: Please introduce yourself and your field of work.**

KCS: My name is Chilseung Kwon. I am part of South Korea's Democratic Party and my district is Hwaseong-si B (      ). Currently, I am a member of the Health and Welfare Committee and I am serving as the chair of the Sub-Committee on Budget.

**YJIS: How has the role of the Ministry of Health and Welfare changed during COVID-19?**

KCS: Since the early 2000s, infectious diseases like SARS, MERS, Ebola, and swine flu have been threatening humanity. Recently with the outbreak of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health and Welfare has been increasing fiscal and policy support to combat COVID-19.

**YJIS: As a member of the Committee of Health and Welfare, have you been impacted by COVID-19 in terms of work or legislation priorities?**

KCS: I have been focusing more on public health and welfare policies amid the COVID-19 outbreak. I am currently doing my best to ensure the citizens' right to health that is promised by our national Constitution.

**YJIS: What significance does the legislative body hold in pandemic control?**

KCS: By conducting legislative activities, Congress serves as a legal support system for the better execution of pandemic control measures. Congress also functions as a financial support system through creating and confirming budgets.

**YJIS: You recently introduced a bill to install surveillance cameras in all hospital surgery rooms. What is the significance of this in the protection of citizens and why is this important?**

KCS: I co-sponsored the amendment introduced by Congressman Nam-kuk

Kim from the same party. Surveillance cameras in operating rooms can serve as protection against unethical medical practices for patients.

**YJIS: How are the rights of the patients related to human rights?**

KCS: All human beings are born with rights. Patients, as human beings, are also entitled to these rights. Bodily autonomy, one's right to one's own body, is an example of a right that all humans are born with. As patients have to entrust their body and its diagnosis to doctors, bodily autonomy can be a significant issue. It is important for patients to still have bodily autonomy throughout this process. Ensuring this right is not just up to the patients' effort, but also to the doctors and the government bodies' efforts.

**YJIS: The bill seems to have some opposition from certain doctors. What is your response to that argument? How would you guarantee that the rights of medical staff will also be protected?**

KCS: Surveillance cameras are already used as defense tools for doctors. Mandating surveillance cameras in operating rooms will increase the public's trust in these cameras so that they can be used to defend both doctors and patients.

**YJIS: What advice can you give to those hoping to work in the National Assembly or the legislative body of the government?**

KCS: Social issues are rarely ever black and white. They are in the gray area. Therefore, it is crucial to consider all sides of an issue and to approach it from different perspectives. Especially for those hoping to work in government, it is essential to consistently maintain this attitude once cultivated.

# GUIDELINES

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## FOR SUBMISSION

**PEAR (Papers, Essays, and Reviews)** welcome submissions from all scholars, most notably graduate students, regarding the diverse field of International Studies, particularly those topics that challenge the conventional wisdom of any given issue. Each issue of the printed Journal will contain the following three sections:

**PAPERS** This section includes feature length articles of original research and must include proper citations. It is this section that showcases compelling and stimulating research that provides a collage of situations and cases. Inclusions should range from 3,000 to 8,000 words.

**ESSAYS** Dedicated to editorials, recommendations, and reflections, this section includes essays that takes stances on issues and develop sophisticated arguments. Though not limited to a particular theme, these essays can discuss past events, current situations, and future perspectives. Inclusions should range from 1,500 to 3,000 words.

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**The following guidelines should be adhered to for all submissions:**

1. All submissions must be sent as a Microsoft Word file.
2. Citations should appear as footnotes as per the Chicago Manual of Style, 17th Edition.
3. Pages should not be numbered or marked with the author's name.
4. All submissions should include a proposed title.
5. Papers and Essays submissions should include an abstract of no longer than 250 words.
6. A short author biography should also be included with each submission.
7. Foreign words should be romanized according to the following systems:
  - Japanese: Revised Hepburn
  - Korean: Revised Romanization
  - Chinese: Pinyin
8. American English spelling and punctuation should be used in all submitted pieces.

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