

Covid-19 and legislative representation in taiwan: An examination of plenary interpellations in the legislative yuan

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Abstrak

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused substantial changes in human behavior and, at the same time, caught the lion's share of scholarly attention. Despite some efforts being made to study legislatures during the crisis of the COVID pandemic, how the pandemic changes the way legislative representatives behave in the legislature still remains a rather under-explored territory. In this paper, we study the impact of COVID-19 on legislative behavior by examining plenary interpellations made in the Taiwanese Legislative Yuan. Our analyses reveal robust evidence of a clear government-opposition divide in legislators' attention and engagement on COVID-related issues in the plenary interpellation process. Opposition legislators are generally more likely to pose COVID-related interpellations to government officials than their colleagues associated with the ruling group, and worsening pandemic situations make this behavioral divergence more pronounced. Therefore, these findings enhance our understanding of how COVID-19 shapes legislative representation and pose important implications for future research on democratic accountability and political communication in times of crisis.