

## Report on Public Policy Position

**Name of section:**

Elder Law & Disability Rights Section

**Contact Person:**

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**Regarding:**

Support increased funding for Michigan Choice Program in State Budget

**Date position was adopted:**

February 2, 2008

**Process used to take the ideological position:**

Position adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting.

**Number of members in the decision-making body:**

20

**Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:**

14 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

4 Did not vote

**Position:**

Support

**Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:**

The Council voted to support increased funding in the state budget for the MI Choice program, also known as the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waiver Program. The program was funded at a level of \$100 million for FY 2007. During FY 2007 there was a line item transfer in the Department of Community Health budget that increased FY 2007 funding to \$117 million. The FY 2008 budget increased funding by an additional \$5 million. The Council believes that the program remains significantly under-funded to meet the need for community based services to allow fragile elders and persons with disabilities to remain in their homes and avoid nursing home admissions. There are long waiting lists for HCB services in every area of the state. The Council supports additional funding that would permit every person who meets the eligibility criteria for the program to receive services.