

**Public Policy Position
HB 4304**

The Family Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 2,458 members. The Family Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan and the position expressed herein is that of the Family Law Section only and not the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this item.

The Family Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 22 members. On May 4, 2019, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 16 members voted in favor of the Section's position on HB 4304, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 6 members did not vote.

Support with Recommended Amendments

Explanation:

The Family Law Section supports this bill with one amendment. The Section recommends deletion language in Section 5a(2) which provides "The court shall not require both parents to provide health care coverage under this subsection unless the parents already provide coverage or both parents agree to provide coverage."

The Family Law Section supports this bill, which eliminates language in the current Act that health care must be provided "if it is a benefit of employment", replacing with language that health care coverage that is "accessible to the child and available at a reasonable cost." The Section also supports the amendment to expand the definition of health care coverage to include private and public health care coverage. The Section recommends one amendment to the bill, which is to delete language in Section 5a(2) which provides "The court shall not require both parents to provide health care coverage under this subsection unless the parents already provide coverage or both parents agree to provide coverage." The Section believes that it is appropriate to allow the court with discretion to determine which parent, or if both parents, should provide coverage, including evaluating all health care coverage options available to the parties.

Contact Person: James Chryssikos

Email: jwc@chryssikoslaw.com