

**Public Policy Position  
HB 4709**

The Family Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 2,699 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 21 members. On June 5, 2021, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 16 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 4 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 1 member did not vote.

**Oppose**

**Explanation:**

Section agrees with requirement that a married person petitioning to adopt a child must include their spouse as co-petitioner, but opposes language allowing two unmarried individuals to adopt. The Section is concerned that two unmarried people adopting could lead to chaotic results. For example, there was no requirement that the unmarried adults live together, and there was no reason a single person could not adopt. The possibility of adoptive un-married parents who live far apart in a non-structured family creates the potential for a multitude of problems. The Family Law Section voted to oppose the same or similar legislation previously, citing that it no longer appeared necessary for two unmarried people to adopt post-Obergefell, which requires states to recognize same-sex marriages.

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