

*p* 517-346-6300

*p* 800-968-1442

*f* 517-482-6248

[www.michbar.org](http://www.michbar.org)

306 Townsend Street  
Michael Franck Building  
Lansing, MI  
48933-2012

December 21, 2011

The Honorable Peter Pettalia  
State Representative  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

**Re: HB 4844 – Personal Protection Orders**

Dear Representative Pettalia:

At its November meeting, the State Bar of Michigan's Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to **oppose HB 4844**. In its review, the Board considered recommendations from its Criminal Jurisprudence & Practice Committee, Civil Procedure & Courts Committee, Justice Policy Initiative, and the Family Law Section. All recommended opposition. The substance of the recommendations is provided below:

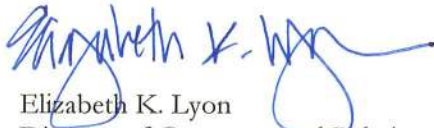
The bill would require that the issuance of a personal protection order be maintained in the system for ten years without considering the potential for improper issuance or issuance based upon unreliable or unsubstantiated allegations. This is concerning given that many personal protection orders are issued *ex parte* and subsequently terminated following a hearing. The amendments are drafted in a manner that does not rule out a requirement that even terminated orders would be retained in the system for ten years.

There is a concern about the proposed public registry. The purpose of a personal protection order is to protect a specific individual and in some circumstances that individual's family. There is no judicial finding that the subject of the order is a danger to others thereby requiring some notification beyond the scope of those who requested and received the order.

Retention of the order on the publicly accessible system will have a long-term effect when the matter that required the personal protection order may be a temporary situation.

If you would like to discuss this position in further detail or have questions, please contact me directly at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth K. Lyon  
Director of Governmental Relations  
Direct dial: (517) 346-6325  
Email: [elyon@mail.michbar.org](mailto:elyon@mail.michbar.org)

CC. Julie I. Fershtman, President  
Nell Kuhnmuensch, Governmental Consultant Services, Inc.