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October 7, 2005

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

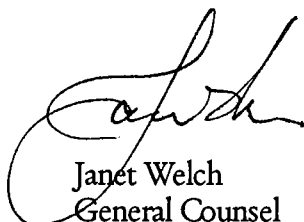
Re: HB 4851 Juvenile Court Jurisdiction Age

Dear Representative Schuitmaker:

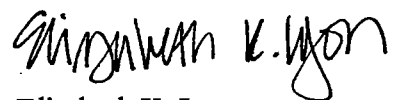
At its September 21, 2005 meeting, the State Bar of Michigan's Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to **support in principle**¹ HB 4851. In our consideration, we discussed the potential positive effects of extending the jurisdiction of the circuit court family division and juvenile court to 18-year olds. Among the benefits cited were increased protection for vulnerable 17-year olds, and improved symmetry within the criminal justice system. We commend your efforts in bringing this proposal forward.

If you would like to discuss this position in further detail or have questions, please contact Janet Welch directly at (517) 346-6375, jwelch@mail.michbar.org; or Elizabeth Lyon directly at (517) 346-6325, elyon@mail.michbar.org.

Sincerely,



Janet Welch
General Counsel



Elizabeth K. Lyon
Public Policy Program Analyst

CC. Thomas W. Cranmer, President
John T. Berry, Executive Director
Nell Kuhnmuensch, Governmental Consultant Services, Inc.

¹ Definition of support in principle: Pending legislation that the State Bar supports but is not the subject of active lobbying effort. The State Bar is on record on this position and will explain it upon request.