SBM STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

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August 3, 2011

p 800-968-1442

The Honorable Mike Nofs

f 517-482-6248

State Senator

www.michbar.org State Capitol

P.O. Box 30036

Lansing, MI 48909-7536

306 Townsend Street Michael Franck Building

Re: SB 0454 Testimony of a Vulnerable Adult

Lansing, MI

48933-2012

Dear Senator Nofs:

At its July 22, 2011 meeting, the State Bar of Michigan's Board of Commissioners voted to support SB 0454 provided that the two-way interactive technology is used instead of video recording. In the Board's consideration, it reviewed a recommendation from the State Bar's Criminal Jurisprudence and Practice Committee that noted the importance of using two-way interactive video testimony in order to preserve a defendant's constitutional right to confrontation.

However, the State Bar believes this subject matter is more properly handled within the jurisdiction of the Michigan Supreme Court. The State Bar has historically supported that such policy changes should be made in court rule or in rules of evidence.

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

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CC. W. Anthony Jenkins, President

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