

*EQUAL ACCESS INITIATIVE*

Respectfully submits the following position on:

\*

HB 4694 – HB 4697

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The Equal Access Initiative is comprised of members appointed by the President of the State Bar of Michigan.

The position expressed is that of the Equal Access Initiative only and is not an official position of the State Bar of Michigan, nor does it necessarily reflect the views of all members of the State Bar of Michigan.

The State Bar of Michigan's position on this matter is to support the bills, but express the concern as to the success of the program without providing funding.

The total membership of the Equal Access Initiative is 16.

The position was adopted an electronic discussion and vote. The number of members in the decision-making body is 16. The number who voted in favor to this position was 12. The number who voted opposed to this position was 0.

## Report on Public Policy Position

**Name of Committee:**

Equal Access Initiative

**Contact Person:**

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**Bill Numbers:**

[HB 4694](#) (Cotter) Courts; circuit court; mental health court; create.

[HB 4695](#) (Haines) Courts; circuit court; mental health court; create.

[HB 4696](#) (Walsh) Courts; circuit court; mental health court; create.

[HB 4697](#) (O'Brien) Courts; circuit court; mental health court; create.

**Date position was adopted:**

July 8, 2013

**Process used to take the ideological position:**

Position adopted after an electronic discussion and vote

**Number of members in the decision-making body:**

16

**Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:**

12 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

4 Did not vote

**Position:**

Support

The text of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report.

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2013-HB-4694>

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**FOR LEGISLATIVE ISSUES ONLY:**

This position falls within the following Keller-permissible category:

- The regulation and discipline of attorneys
- ✓ The improvement of the functioning of the courts
- The availability of legal services to society
- The regulation of attorney trust accounts
- The regulation of the legal profession, including the education, the ethics, the competency, and the integrity of the profession.

**Keller-permissible explanation:**

These bills would affect the functioning of the court in their creation of a new problem-solving court, focusing on those individuals in the system with mental illness.