

p 517-346-6300

July 3, 2007

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The Honorable Roger Kahn, MD
State Senator
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

306 Townsend Street

Michael Franck Building

Lansing, MI

48933-2012

RE: SB 291 Gang Felony Crimes

Dear Senator Kahn:

At its June 15, 2007 meeting, the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to **actively oppose¹ SB 291**. The State Bar's opposition is based on the mandatory sentencing provided for in the bill and the ambiguity of the definitions used to identify gang crime. The State Bar has a long-standing position opposing mandatory sentencing because it eliminates judicial discretion. Concerns were also raised that the definitions of gang crime were imprecise.

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

Sincerely,



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Nell Kuhnmuensch, Governmental Consultant Services, Inc.

¹ Definition of active opposition: Pending legislation that the State Bar opposes and which is the subject of active lobbying effort.