

**Public Policy Position**  
**HB 4018**

The Children's Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 485 members. The Children's Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan and the position expressed herein is that of the Children's Law Section only and not the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this item.

The Children's Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 19 members. On February 20, 2025, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 15 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 4 members did not vote.

**Oppose****Explanation:**

The Children's Law Section opposes HB 4018. While we are mindful of the need to ensure officer safety and efficiency in the administration of justice, including at the time of arrest, the Section is deeply concerned about the potential impact on children who are transported with their adult co-defendant upon arrest. Given the power dynamics between adults and children, the Section believes that allowing a child to be placed into the same vehicle as an adult arrested for the same offense could lead to situations in which the adult uses their position to coerce the child into taking the blame for the alleged offense. It could lead to witness intimidation, to which children are particularly vulnerable.

Additionally, both state and federal law mandate that, which a child is held in an adult correctional facility, they be placed outside of sight and sound of adult residents of the facility. This bill is directly contrary to the spirit of that law, if not the exact letter of the law. Public policy clearly opposes children being within the presence of adults in jails and correctional facilities, and the transportation contemplated by this bill would be en route to a jail or other correctional facility. This would arguably bring it into conflict with the language of those statutes and would certainly bring it into conflict with that public policy.

**Contact Person:** Josh Pease**Email:** [jpease@sado.org](mailto:jpease@sado.org)