

Public Policy Position
HB 4750

The Children's Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 520 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 August 21, 2025, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 13 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 1 member abstained, 5 members did not vote.

Support in Concept But Oppose as Drafted**Explanation:**

The Children's Law Section strongly supports efforts to ensure that foster care workers are applying for all benefits to which foster youth are entitled. That being said, we have some concerns about HB 4750 as drafted, to wit:

No independent review requirement – There's no requirement for a court, GAL, or external fiduciary to confirm that the Department's choice of representative payee is truly in the child's best interest.

Rigid conservation percentages – The minimum savings thresholds (40%, 80%, 100%) for different age ranges might limit flexibility if the child has legitimate, immediate needs that exceed the allowed spending.

No clarity on investment strategy – "Conserving" funds is required, but there's no guidance on whether funds must be placed in interest-bearing or inflation-protected accounts.

Definition of "benefits" – The bill lists certain benefits (SSI, Social Security, VA, other applicable benefits) but does not clearly include state-only benefits, tribal benefits, or settlement payouts — potentially leaving gaps.

No provisions for disputes – There's no clear procedure if the youth, attorney, or GAL disagrees with how funds are being used or saved.



CHILDREN'S LAW SECTION

Contact Person: Joshua Pease

Email: jpease@sado.org