

**Public Policy Position
SB 605**

The Children's Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 498 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 December 18, 2025, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 10 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 1 member abstained, 8 members did not vote.

Oppose**Explanation:**

The Children's Law Section opposes SB 605. We have consistently opposed similar efforts to allow state legislators and members of the media to be given access to confidential records under the Child Protection Law. We have concerns that expanding the list of people whom these records can be released could potentially run afoul of federal law and may jeopardize federal funds for child welfare proceedings. Additionally, we have concerns about the release of these sensitive records to people who do not necessarily understand the intricacies and delicacies of cases involving abused and neglected children. A least one Section member expressed fear that information about a child that should remain confidential would be used as a political prop by a legislator.

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