

**Public Policy Position
SB 735**

The Children's Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 502 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 January 15, 2026, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 14 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 member voted against this position, 1 member abstained, 4 members did not vote.

Oppose**Explanation:**

The Children's Law Section opposes SB 735. This bill, in large part, seeks to codify exceptions to what constitutes child neglect by excluding simple actions such as leaving a child alone for a short period of time or allowing a child to walk a few blocks to a friend's house or play unsupervised at the playground. While there was general agreement among Council members that these acts should not constitute child neglect, there was also concern about codifying broad definitions when these are circumstances in which CPS is very unlikely to take any action. The information given about why the bill was introduced seemed to be more an issue of a public misconception about when leaving a child alone constitutes neglect. Council members were unaware of any instances of CPS investigating a parent letting a child walk alone to school, let alone reaching the point of determining that was child neglect. As such, the Council believes that this bill is unnecessary and may be more harmful than beneficial despite what are clearly good intentions.

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