

**Public Policy Position**  
**HB 5464**

The Family Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 2,589 members. The Family Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan and the position expressed herein is that of the Family Law Section only and not the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this item.

The Family Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 21 members. On November 6, 2021, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 16 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 5 members did not vote.

**Oppose**

**Explanation:**

A bill to amend the "social welfare act" to require individuals to cooperate with the child support enforcement program as a condition to eligibility for food assistance benefits. Concerns about this bill included that withholding of food assistance to needy families was not appropriate, and that there may be a multitude of reasons as to why an individual would not wish to cooperate with the child support enforcement program, such as cases involving an abusive biological father, incest, rape, etc. None of these exceptions are mentioned in the bill. There were also concerns that mothers can sometimes list the wrong person as the father on the birth record. There was overall concern that the bill was vague.

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