

Public Policy Position SJR I

The Family Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 2,428 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. The State Bar does not have a position in this matter.

The Family Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 21 members. On October 5, 2019, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 17 members voted in favor of the Section's position on SJR I, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 4 members did not vote.

Oppose

Explanation:

This is a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the state constitution of 1963, by adding section 28 to article I, to recognize the best interests of the child in determining the termination of parental rights in cases of child abuse or child neglect, child custody cases, and out-of-home child placements. The Section opposed the same or similar proposed resolution in June of 2018, which was SJR Q, at which time the Section stated that it saw no reason why this should be a constitutional amendment and that any changes in the law on this issue are better handled statutorily, which remains the Section's position. It was argued that such a constitutional amendment could run contrary to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Troxel v. Granville*.

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