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July 31, 2007

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The Honorable Bruce Caswell  
State Representative  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

306 Townsend Street

Michael Franck Building

Lansing, MI

48933-2012

**Re: HB 4267 Sliding Scale Attorney Fees**

Dear Representative Caswell:

At its July 20, 2007 meeting, the State Bar of Michigan's Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to **actively oppose**<sup>1</sup> **HB 4267**. The position is based on a long-standing State Bar position that limiting contingency fees in turn limits the public's ability to retain counsel. This directly impacts the public's access to justice.

Consistent with its constitutional authority for supervision of the courts and regulation of the profession, the Michigan Supreme Court has addressed the issue of contingency fees in the Michigan Court Rules and the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct. The State Bar believes that any changes concerning contingency fees are most appropriately addressed through changes to these rules.

If you would like to discuss this position in further detail or have questions, please contact Janet Welch directly at (517) 346-6331, [jwelch@mail.michbar.org](mailto:jwelch@mail.michbar.org); or Elizabeth Lyon directly at (517) 346-6325, [elyon@mail.michbar.org](mailto:elyon@mail.michbar.org).

Sincerely,



Janet Welch  
Executive Director



Elizabeth K. Lyon  
Director, Governmental Relations

CC. Kimberly M. Cahill, President  
Nell Kuhnmuensch, Governmental Consultant Services, Inc.

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<sup>1</sup> Definition of active opposition: pending legislation that the State Bar opposes and which is the subject of active lobbying effort.