

JUSTICE POLICY INITIATIVE  
Respectfully submits the following position on:

\*

SB 0688

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The Justice Policy Initiative is comprised of members appointed by the President of the State Bar of Michigan.

The position expressed is that of the Justice Policy Initiative only and is not an official position of the State Bar of Michigan, nor does it necessarily reflect the views of all members of the State Bar of Michigan.

The State Bar position on this matter is to support.

The total membership of the Justice Policy Initiative is 15.

The position was adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. The number of members in the decision-making body is 15. The number who voted in favor to this position was 9. The number who voted opposed to this position was 0.

## Report on Public Policy Position

**Name of Committee:**

Justice Policy Initiative

**Contact Person:**

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**Bill Number:**

[SB 0688](#) (Schuitmaker) Crimes, perjury. Crimes; perjury; unsworn declaration made under penalty of perjury; include as a statement punishable as perjury. Amends sec. 423 of 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.423).

**Date position was adopted:**

October 17, 2011

**Process used to take the ideological position:**

Position adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting.

**Number of members in the decision-making body:**

15

**Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:**

9 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

6 Did not vote

**Position:**

Support

**Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:**

Whether written or oral, willfully swearing under falsely under oath constitutes perjury. Consistent with today's technology, electronic signatures are no different that handwritten signatures. This bill is supported.

**The text of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report.**

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2011-SB-0688>

**FOR LEGISLATIVE ISSUES ONLY:**

This position falls within the following Keller-permissible category:

- The regulation and discipline of attorneys
- ✓ The improvement of the functioning of the courts
- The availability of legal services to society
- The regulation of attorney trust accounts
- The regulation of the legal profession, including the education, the ethics, the competency, and the integrity of the profession.

**Keller-permissible explanation:**

SB0688 relates to the improvement of the functioning of the courts because it relates to ensuring that testimony, whether oral or written, is true.