

**Public Policy Position
SB 12**

The Family Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 2,605 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 March 2, 2025, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 18 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 1 member abstained, 2 members did not vote.

Oppose

Explanation:

The Family Law Section opposes SB 12. The bill is not line with current case law from both criminal law and child welfare law indicating that a fetus is not a child under Michigan law. Additionally, the requirement that a woman receive prenatal care under the supervision of a doctor would create a disparity in which fetuses count as qualified children. Women who do not have the financial means to receive such care would not have fetuses which meet the definition of qualified child while women of greater means would. Finally, it is unclear whether a fetus would meet the definition of a qualified child if the woman does not receive medical care until after 12 weeks due to discovering the pregnancy too late to start receiving care at 12 weeks.

Contact Person: Josh Pease

Email: jpease@sado.org