

**From:** Mike MacLaren  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 26, 2012 9:51 AM  
**To:** Valerie Knol  
**Cc:** Lisa McGraw  
**Subject:** SB 630-633

Please note our concerns in the attached memo.

Thank you.

**Mike MacLaren : Executive Director : Michigan Press Association**  
827 N. Washington Ave. : Lansing, MI 48906-5199 V: 517-372-2424 : [www.michiganpress.org](http://www.michiganpress.org)

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**Dear members of the House Committee on Judiciary:**

We respectfully ask your consideration of some concerns relative to the following sections of SB 630, 631, 632 & 633:

SB 630 Page 2 lines 8-14

SB 631 Page 3 lines 11-17

SB 632: Page 3 & 4 Lines 26-5

SB 633 Page 4 Lines 9-15:

These changes would significantly limit public access to certain court proceedings; for the most part, these proceedings have been open to the public (as required by the U.S. and Michigan Constitutions). While we do not disagree that, in some circumstances, there are good reasons to limit public access to certain aspects of judicial proceedings, in general, such limitations have been extremely narrow and have been necessitated by extraordinary countervailing considerations, usually of a constitutional nature. The changes made to these bills are extremely broad and we question their necessity particularly because, as far as we are aware, there has been no justification offered for their need, much less a need rising to the level of a constitutional issue.

We respectfully ask you to consider adopting language (which we would be happy to help you draft) which would be less broad.