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To: Sen. Rick Jones, Chair, Senate Judiciary  
Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, Majority Vice Chair, Senate Judiciary  
Sen. Steven M. Bieda, Minority Committee Chair, Senate Judiciary  
Sen. Tory Rocca, Member, Senate Judiciary

From: Peter Cunningham, Director of Governmental Relations

Date: December 9, 2014

Re: HB 5928 Criminal Justice Policy Commission  
Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing

306 Townsend Street  
Michael Franck Building  
Lansing, MI  
48933-2012

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At its November 22 meeting, the State Bar of Michigan's Board of Commissioners voted to support the creation of the Criminal Justice Policy Commission in HB 5928. Specifically, the State Bar supports the creation of the commission in regard to its ability to collect and analyze data regarding the effect of sentencing guidelines on the caseload, docket flow, and case backlog of the state's trial and appellate courts.

The Board of Commissioners was unable to consider SB 1141 at their meeting on November 22 due to a constraint in Supreme Court Administrative Order 2004-1 that prohibits the State Bar from taking positions on bills less than two weeks from introduction. (SB 1141 was introduced on November 12.) However, given that SB 1141 and HB 5928 were introduced as identical versions, the State Bar's position on HB 5928, as outlined above, would apply to SB 1141.

If you would like to discuss this position in further detail or have questions, please contact me directly at your convenience.