

PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS SECTION

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Jacqueline Colette Ouvry  
State Appellate Defender  
Office  
645 Griswold St Ste 3300  
Detroit, MI 48226-4215

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February 7, 2017

Rep. Lee Chatfield  
Chair, Michigan Competitiveness Committee  
Michigan House of Representatives  
124 North Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Rep. Chatfield:

I write to you today on behalf of the Prisons and Corrections Section, not the entire State Bar. I write regarding SB 50, which I ask you to oppose.

Our Section represents members of the State Bar with an interest in Prisons and Corrections policy and litigation. Our 160 person membership includes attorneys, judges, corrections staff, social workers, and non-profit organizations.

At the February 2017 meeting, our Council voted to oppose this proposed legislation with no opposition. The Section supported the elimination of the original jail bed savings program and continues to believe reinstituting the program is not sound policy.

In our Spring 2015 newsletter, our Section published an article outlining the problems with the original program: little or no access to rehabilitative programming, no access to law library materials, little or no work opportunities, and significantly curtailed visitation (which is known to promote rehabilitation). Many of these problems arise due to lack of ACA accreditation of Michigan county jail facilities. I have provided a copy of the article along with this letter.

The prior jail bed savings program did not assist in reentry because inmates were not placed in proximity to *their* local community, rather in *a* local community that had available bed space. They were not able to connect to the community to which they would return.

This program was tested and did not work. The Department of Corrections asked for removal of the program from its budget and opposes reintroduction.

Our Section would urge opposition to this Bill.

Sincerely yours,



Jacqueline Ouvry  
Chair