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**Subject:** Task Force Recommendation - MI Bar response

I am a licensed attorney in Michigan and a member in good standing of the MI Bar Association. I do not agree with my Bar Associations comments to the finding of the Task Force.

Let me explain my reasoning. The core mission of the Bar Association is the vetting of the legal professionals in the state. Preserving the integrity of the profession is a high calling and I believe they execute their core mission extremely well. For that reason I believe Bar dues should be and should continue to be mandatory.

However, the issue of issue advocacy within the legislative branch by the State Bar needs to be closely inspected. There can be no question that a current political hot topic is whether lobbying by public or quasi public groups is appropriate. I thought the Task Force came up with a discernible solid bright line (a double yellow line on a busy state highway).

The State Bar takes issue with that double yellow and would prefer a dotted line so they could pull out into the opposing traffic lane from time to time.

I do not believe that is advisable. A dotted line on this road could lead to a collusion, and the casualty would be loss of mandatory dues and fulfillment of the core mission.

Requiring advocacy of the legislative branch to be done outside of the Bar Association is not that burdensome of a restriction. We of the Bar are passionate, zealous and creative. We can certainly navigate a round about and still achieve results without using the impetrator of the Michigan Bar Association.

The Task Force recommendation is for the good of the profession. The State Bar position, frankly, does not give it's member their due. Let's make sure Bar Dues remain mandatory.

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