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Subject: Comment re: report

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As a 20-year member of the State Bar of Michigan, I urge you to reject the report of this "task force" and to take no further action. None is needed.

Plainly, this whole "task force" exercise has been a Republican-driven mechanism to try to keep the State Bar from stopping/impeding their continuing legislative activities on behalf of their interests: insurance companies, banks, and the extraction industry (to wit: oil and gas).

The State Bar has both the right, and the duty, to continue to try to protect the public from their rapacious right-wing agenda. This business about supposed "First-Amendment" problems and so-called "ideological activities" is nothing more than Republican hokum, plain and simple.

Obviously, the strategy of Colleen Pero and her cohorts was to threaten to de-integrate the State Bar, cause a political stink, and then nominally to "settle" for what they really wanted the whole time: to shut the State Bar up, and to remove an effective political opponent.

To change anything, just because some Republicans fussed and squawked without a genuine basis, isn't a compromise. It isn't wise. It's just giving them exactly what they always wanted, and it's bowing to their bullying in the process.

Let's please just leave everything as it is now. It's fine. If some attorney has a genuine "First Amendment" problem with the State Bar's current activities, well, s/he knows where the courthouse is.

Thank you,
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