

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, Sept. 7, 2018

Contact: Kate McCracken
Phone: 517.225.3186
Email: kate@safeandjustmi.org

Safe & Just
Michigan

Statement from Safe & Just Michigan Associate Director of Policy & Research John Cooper on Gov. Rick Snyder's decision to 'Ban the Box' on state employment applications:

“The stigma of having a criminal record often gets between people with a criminal record and the quality jobs with good wages that enable them to provide for their families. Gov. Rick Snyder's decision to ban the box for state job applications — and the question from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs' occupational and construction code licensing applications — gives people with a criminal history a fair chance to compete for the kind of opportunities that allow people to sustain their families and plan for their futures. At the same time, it lets hiring managers retain the ability to conduct background checks and make informed decisions. We're grateful to the governor for this move, and we're grateful to business leaders, such as Cascade Engineering and Abcor Industries, who have already seen the value in extending career opportunities to those who have been incarcerated. We look forward to a day when the Legislature takes the step of banning to box statewide — and more importantly, to a day when employers see more value in giving opportunities to formerly incarcerated people rather than keeping opportunities from them. As Baby Boomers continue to retire and the need for talent in Michigan increases, we urge more hiring managers and business owners to give formerly incarcerated people a chance to compete for the good jobs being created in Michigan's growing economy.”

###

Safe & Just Michigan (www.safeandjustmi.org) works to advance policies that end Michigan's over-use of incarceration and promote community safety and healing. We partner with Michigan organizations and leaders from across the political spectrum, including business and community leaders, faith communities, crime survivor organizations, formerly incarcerated individuals, prisoners and their families, as well as Michigan taxpayers statewide.