

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Friday, Oct. 5, 2018

Contact: Kate McCracken  
Phone: 517.225.3186  
Email: [kate@safeandjustmi.org](mailto:kate@safeandjustmi.org)

**Safe & Just**  
Michigan

---

*Statement from Safe & Just Michigan Associate Director of  
Policy & Research John Cooper on the introduction of bail  
reform legislation:*

“Cash bail is an outdated system that unjustly disrupts the lives of thousands of vulnerable Michiganders before they are convicted of any crime and without regard for whether they pose a risk to public safety. The mere inability to pay bail causes many people to languish in county jails for weeks or even months at the cost of their jobs, vehicles, housing, credit scores and minor children. The human cost of this unnecessary incarceration is tragic but avoidable, as the federal system and the number of states that do not use cash bail have made clear.

“Cash bail also has a significant cost to taxpayers, as a significant percentage of inmates in many county jails are detained pre-trial due to an inability to pay. The associated cost to taxpayers is on average \$60 to \$75 per day, even though the vast majority of these people pose no risk to the public and could be safely returned home to their families and their jobs to continue to contribute to the community while the legal process moves forward.

“Safe & Just Michigan thanks Rep. David LaGrand for leading the effort on this legislative package and agrees that it is time to address the toll that the cash bail system takes on people involved in the justice system and on Michigan taxpayers. We look forward to working with him and his colleagues in the Legislature to reform the cash bail system in Michigan.”

###

Safe & Just Michigan ([www.safeandjustmi.org](http://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.