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Contact: Wendy Lerner, Truscott Rossman
Phone: 517.487.9320
Email: wlerner@truscottrossman.com

Safe & Just
Michigan

Statement from Safe & Just Michigan on the Introduction of New Criminal Justice Reform Legislation

LANSING — Safe & Just Michigan today praised the introduction of new, bipartisan legislation to reform Michigan’s criminal record sealing process — also known as “expungement.” The Clean Slate package could help hundreds of thousands of Michiganders with potentially decades of law-abiding behavior reset their public record and improve their access to good jobs and housing.

Currently, only 6.5 percent of eligible people are able to navigate the complex petition process that record-sealing requires — a few thousand do so a year. The average person that obtains an expungement sees a 25 percent increase in personal income within two years.

“By expanding eligibility and automating significant parts of the expungement process, this package takes significant steps toward fixing Michigan’s broken expungement system and puts Michigan on track to be a national leader on expungement reform,” said Safe & Just Michigan Executive Director John Cooper. “Clean Slate legislation is smart policy that will open up opportunity for thousands of people. Clean Slate is good for Michigan’s workforce, good for taxpayers, and good for public safety. We look forward to working with Rep. Graham Filler to ensure that everyone working hard to succeed has a real chance in Michigan.”

The legislation is expected to be introduced this week.

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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.