

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The logo for Safe & Just Michigan is a blue rectangle with the text "Safe & Just" in a large, white, sans-serif font, and "Michigan" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

Safe & Just
Michigan

Statement from Safe & Just Michigan Executive Director John Cooper on the Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration's legislative recommendations:

“We’re encouraged to see the Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration come out with substantial ideas for improving Michigan’s county jail system. Michigan’s jail population has nearly tripled in recent years, and the county jail system costs taxpayers almost half a billion dollars annually, yet many of the leading causes of jail stays – such as inability to afford bail, technical probation violations, or jail sentences for driving without a valid license and low-level theft and drug possession – could be managed safely through alternative means with much lower public and social costs.

The recommendations of the Task Force are smart on crime. They identify numerous ways in which Michigan’s jail system overuses incarceration and recommend reforms that will lead to better outcomes at less cost. Safe & Just Michigan strongly encourages the Michigan Legislature to prioritize passing legislation based on these research-backed, thoughtful recommendations into policy. If enacted, they will save counties millions and improve outcomes for tens of thousands of people annually.”

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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.