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

Safe & Just
Michigan

Statement from Safe & Just Michigan Executive Director John Cooper on today's Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee Hearing on Clean Slate legislation:

“At today’s Michigan Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee hearing, voices of all types were present, and there was a healthy debate about the proposed Clean Slate law (House Bill 4980 which would automatically seal certain low-level, non-violent convictions after seven or 10 years in the community without another conviction. However, several critically important points about the bill were lost in that debate and need to be addressed. First and foremost: ALL crimes requiring notice to victims are ineligible for an automatic expungement, and there is nothing in this bill that silences victims or otherwise affects victims’ rights, including restitution. The bills under consideration are bipartisan, have broad support from the business community, have passed through the House of Representatives, and are viewed by most as legislation that will help Michigan recover from COVID-19 by opening up economic opportunity for hundreds of thousands of Michiganders with old low-level, non-violent criminal convictions.”

For more information about the Clean Slate package, please visit our website at www.safeandjustmi.org/our-work/clean-slate-for-michigan/.”

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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.