

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020

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**Safe & Just**  
Michigan

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*Safe & Just Michigan Executive Director John S. Cooper on bills related to the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration:*

“We are very pleased to see both the Michigan House and the Michigan Senate advance bills based on the recommendations of the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration this week. These bills take important steps toward ending Michigan’s overuse of jails, and, if passed, will protect thousands of people from unnecessary arrests and incarceration for low-level misdemeanors and technical probation violations. It will also end harmful practices such as suspending driver’s licenses for non-driving conduct (usually failure to pay fines and fees) that negatively impact hundreds of thousands of Michiganders annually. These reforms will help thousands of people get to work and keep jobs instead of cycling through Michigan’s jail system, thereby improving both economic productivity *and* public safety in our state.

“In the remaining weeks of the current legislative session, we urge lawmakers to work together to ensure these bills pass before the end of session. Numerous changes were made in committee to address concerns, and they passed out of committee — and, in several cases, out of the House — with overwhelming margins of support. In short, they are positioned to move quickly and should do so without delay.

“These bills, along with the recently passed Clean Slate legislation, show that Michigan is a leader in criminal justice reform. We are grateful to have legislators and leaders in our state who are able to work together — even across party lines — to pass these much-needed reforms.”

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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.