

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Safe & Just**  
Michigan

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*Statement from Safe & Just Michigan Executive Director John S. Cooper on the final passage of bills related to the jails task force:*

“We are very pleased to see bills based on the recommendations of the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration pass the Michigan Legislature today. These bills emphasize alternatives to arrest, jail and probation, such as allowing police officers more discretion to issue citations in lieu of arrest for misdemeanors; giving judges the ability to reduce supervision terms and create alternatives to incarceration for ‘failure to appear’ tickets; and allowing people on probation the ability shorten their probationary terms through incentives for good behavior.

“When law enforcement and judges are given choices not to arrest and not to incarcerate, and success on probation is incentivized, it will make our communities safer and reduce the costs of our criminal justice system. Giving people who commit minor offenses alternatives to incarceration and supervision means employers, taxpayers and the families and children of directly impacted people are the immediate beneficiaries. These reforms make our state safer and more just.

“The Michigan Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration was a historic process that included a wide range of stakeholders. Safe & Just Michigan proudly joined a coalition of organizations such as the Detroit Justice Center, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, Americans For Prosperity, the ACLU of Michigan and others to support the recommendations of the task force, and we want to thank all of the members of the House for making these bills law. Thanks to the Task Force members, legislative leadership, and the bill sponsors for their leadership and hard work on these bills, and to the Pew Charitable Trusts, which funded and staffed the Task Force, and were an invaluable resource as stakeholders worked to develop legislation based on the Task Force recommendations and navigate the legislative process.

“I am proud that in this time of polarization, a broad bipartisan majority of legislators came together to pass these important, evidence-based reforms. They add to a truly impressive list of criminal justice reforms that were passed during the 2019-20 legislative session, and help cement Michigan’s growing reputation as a national leader in criminal justice policy.”

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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.